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# Suffolk

Alumni Magazine

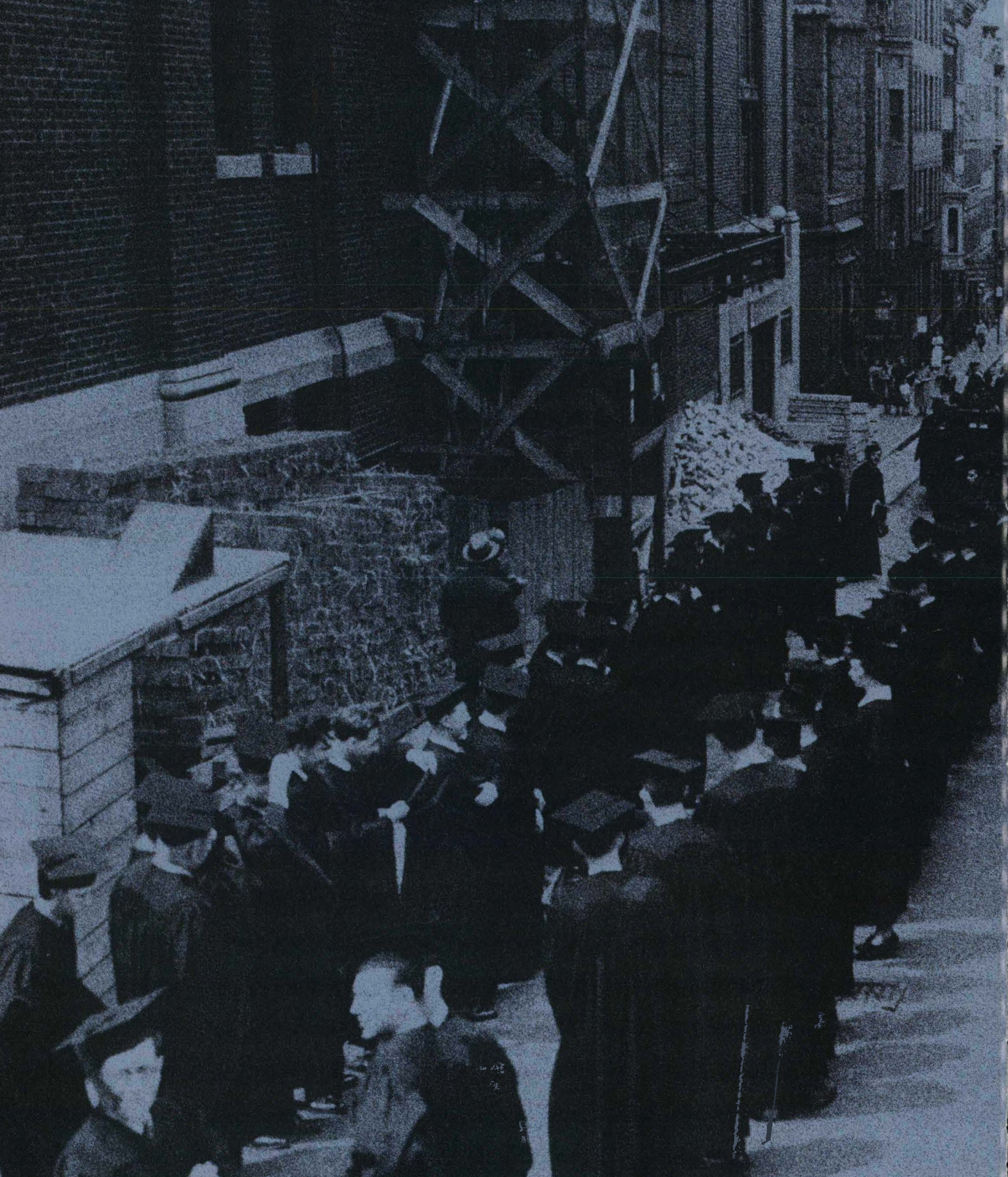


## The Child Whisperer

Kathy Regan's quiet revolution in communicating with challenging children

WINTER 2009 \$3.95 // VOL. IV NO. 2







These students earned their degrees at night, after work, and most commuted from around Boston. By many measures, Suffolk is a different place today. We draw students from all 50 states and 95 countries. We offer on-campus housing. And while our night programs still flourish, most of our undergraduates today are day students.

What hasn't changed? Suffolk's gift for helping hardworking people find their passion and exercise their power. Even today, a third of our students are the first in their family to go to college, and more than three-quarters require some form of financial aid. Unfortunately, the surging need for financial assistance is badly outstripping our resources—and threatening Suffolk's commitment to serving students outside the circle of affluence.

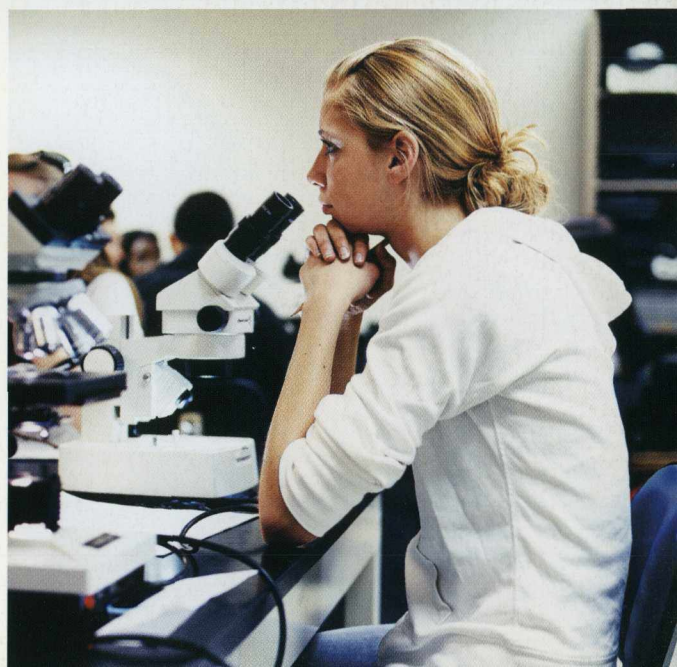
Our challenge now: to make a dramatic new investment in our financial aid endowment and in the quality of the student experience, to ensure that Suffolk can offer tomorrow's students the same access to excellence we provided to so many in the past.

“For decades, many Suffolk students never saw the school in daylight until graduation.”

*The Campaign for SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY*

## *The Power to Change*

To find out how you can help lay the foundation for Suffolk's future, contact the Office of Advancement at (617) 573-8443 or visit [www.suffolk.edu/giving](http://www.suffolk.edu/giving)





# WINTER 2009

## Features

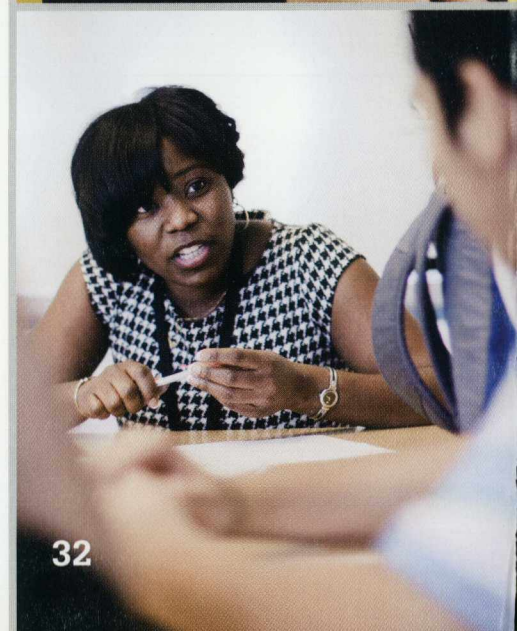
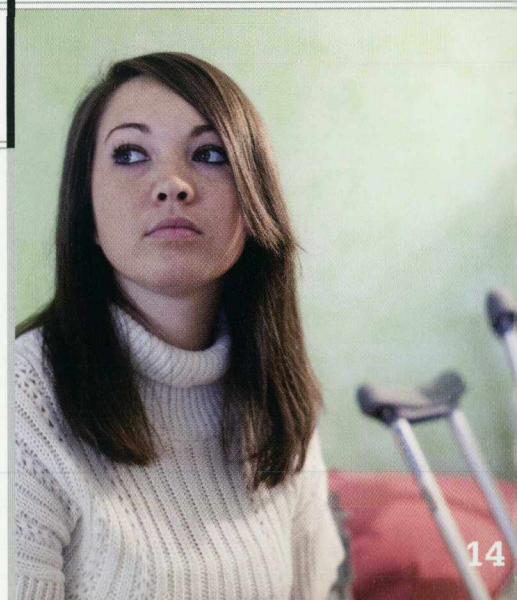
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SUFFOLK

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION





## A Women's (non) Issue

**I**N AN ESSAY during this past campaign season, Gloria Steinem observed that “Sarah Palin shares nothing but a chromosome with Hillary Clinton.”

The six women pictured on page 37 of this issue of Suffolk Alumni Magazine have something in common besides their gender. As members of the first women's intramural basketball team at Suffolk University, they were pioneers. When the team began in 1951, it predated women's basketball teams at not only co-ed institutions such as Northeastern (1968), Boston College (1972), and Harvard (1975), but even at women's colleges like Smith (1981) and Simmons (1983).

Sports is hardly the only arena in which Suffolk women have distinguished themselves. We've come a long way since 1925, when the Dean's catalogue described Suffolk Law as “A Man's School.” As College of Arts & Sciences Associate Dean David L. Robbins observed in *A History of Suffolk University 1906-1996*, “Women were formally barred from Suffolk Law School” until 1937. So it's reassuring to note that from the 1970s until 1980, more than a third of students at the Law School and more than half of CAS students were female, while the proportion of women in the Business School tripled. In 1972, the President's Committee on the Status of Women began. Three years later, Suffolk elected its first female trustee (Jeanne M. Hession '56).

Women have made a name for themselves and for their alma mater as some of Suffolk's most prominent graduates. Consider the four graduates profiled on these pages:


Su Joun '04 (“Parent Company,” pg. 20) left a successful corporate position to pub-

lish a book (*Mother of Two's Guide to Sanity*), an e-magazine (*Mother to Mother*), and a print publication (*Parents for Parents*). In so doing, she managed to combine her two passions: publishing and parenting.

Like Su, Kathy Regan '05 (“The Child Whisperer,” pg. 26) focuses on children, specifically those with autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), psychotic symptoms, and other diagnoses that can result in behavioral and communication disorders. Her book, *Opening Our Arms: Helping Troubled Kids Do Well*, chronicles her unique approach, which eschews more standard strategies like restraints and isolation in favor of communication and respect.

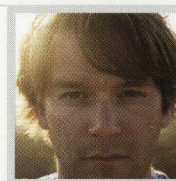
While so-called “troubled” kids are at the heart of Kathy's work, the students of Boston middle school teacher Darlene Marciano '03 (“Head of the Class,” pg. 32) are frequently considered “at risk.” Such terms clearly mean little to Kathy or to Darlene; they are the kind of caring role models that the youngsters they work with will remember long after they have grown up.

When Jill O'Bryan '08 (“Road Scholar,” pg. 14) walked across the stage in May to receive her diploma, it was something of a miracle. The victim of a drunk-driving accident resulting in more than two months in the hospital, four months in a wheelchair, and 16 surgeries, Jill graduated from Suffolk in May after deciding that there was “no way I'm going to let that guy disrupt my entire life.” Instead, she was determined to move on, and that is exactly what she has done.

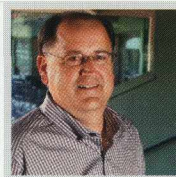
We didn't set out to create a “women's issue” of SAM. We simply selected four compelling stories and realized that they all happen to share a chromosome—and an educational affiliation we're very proud of. 



Before joining *Boston Magazine* as a staff writer/researcher in 2007, Chicago native **Brigid Sweeney** (“Parent Company,” pg. 20) wrote about style and culture for *Chicago Magazine* and about politics as a Washington correspondent for an Indiana newspaper.



Past clients of photographer **Christopher Churchill** (“Road Scholar,” pg. 14, “The Child Whisperer,” pg. 26) include *Newsweek*, *Real Simple*, *Fast Company*, Inc., *Glamour*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, MIT's *Technology Review*, *Kiplinger's*, The Federal Reserve Bank, and The Massachusetts General Cancer Center. Churchill's works are held in collections including The Addison Gallery of American Art, The Portland Museum of Art, The Palm Springs Art Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. He lives with his wife and daughter outside of Boston.

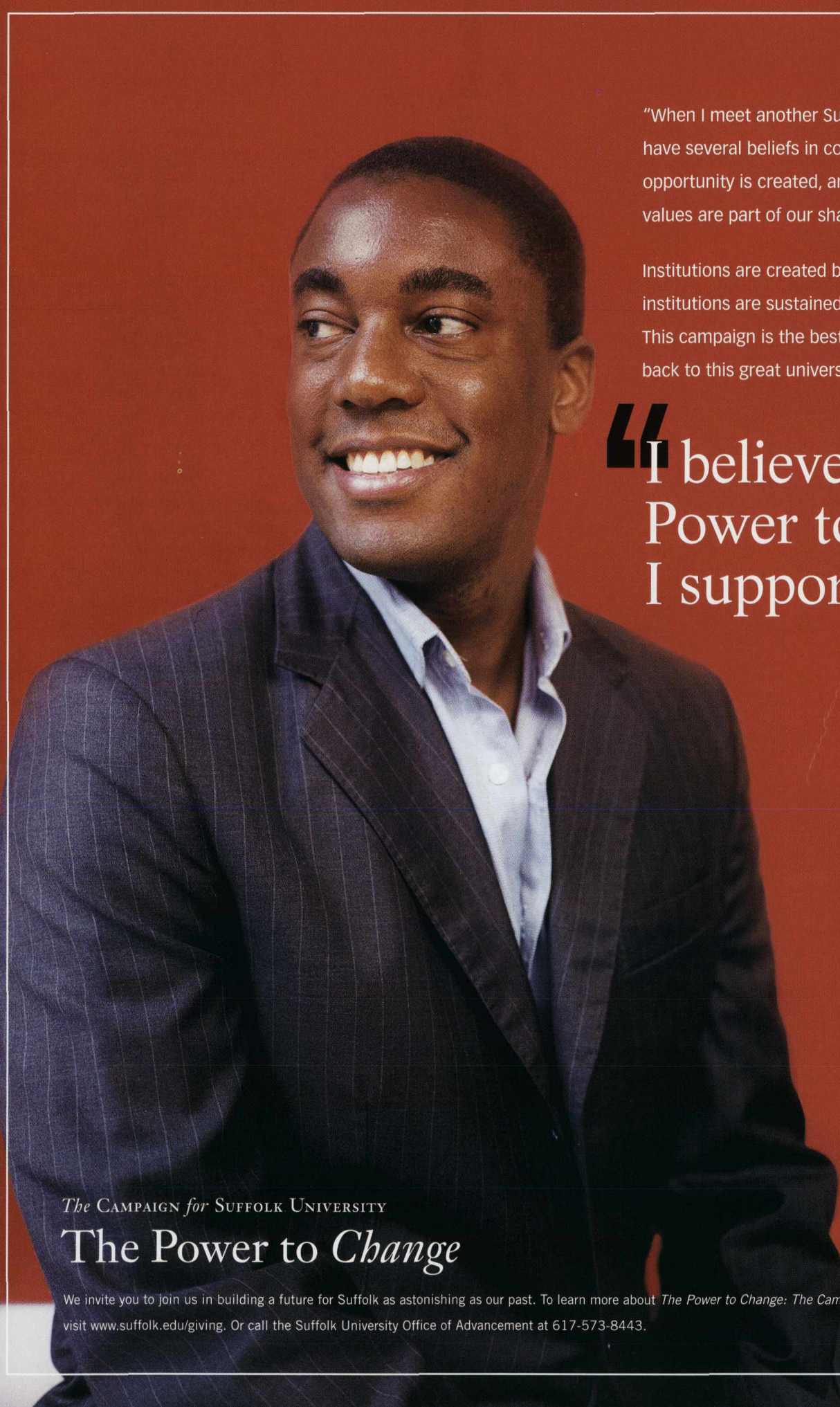


Sports fans know **Nick Cafardo**, (“BackStory,” pg. 56) as national baseball writer for the *Boston Globe*, where he has worked since 1989. He is a contributor to the New England Sports Network pre-game show and author of “*The Impossible Team*” about the '01 New England Patriots and “*None but the Braves*,” which chronicled the '95 Atlanta Braves.



A freelance writer, producer, and editor, **Rachel Roesler** (“Brother's Keeper,” pg. 49) has worked for WHDH-TV (NBC/Boston), The History Channel, *North Shore Magazine*, tvfodder.com, and other local and national programs and publications.





"When I meet another Suffolk graduate, I know that we have several beliefs in common. Hard work is rewarded, opportunity is created, and all people matter. These values are part of our shared "Suffolk DNA."

Institutions are created by great individuals. Great institutions are sustained by committed people. This campaign is the best time for each of us to give back to this great university."

**"I believe in the  
Power to Change.  
I support Suffolk."**

Nique Fajors '89  
CEO

One Spear, LLC  
Suffolk Campaign Supporter

*The CAMPAIGN for SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY*

## *The Power to Change*

We invite you to join us in building a future for Suffolk as astonishing as our past. To learn more about *The Power to Change: The Campaign for Suffolk University*, visit [www.suffolk.edu/giving](http://www.suffolk.edu/giving). Or call the Suffolk University Office of Advancement at 617-573-8443.



## FAMILY MATTERS

### Steve Sbraccia '78 and Susan Rist-Sbraccia '95

I thoroughly enjoyed the profile of Steve and Susan Sbraccia and their beautiful family in this edition of your magazine. The only information that is missing is how much the news team at NBC 17 in Raleigh, NC, enjoys working with Steve. It's an honor and privilege to work with a veteran newsman like Steve Sbraccia everyday. His love of journalism and years of big-market experience are invaluable to our newsroom as a whole, and especially to the young journalists who work here. Since I sport a gray hair or two myself, I don't mind sharing that it's also great to work with someone who worked during the "old days" of TV journalism. Steve's family is part of ours now, as we've watched his daughters grow into the young ladies they've become. All of your readers should know that Steve and Susan are excellent representatives of your fine institution, as well as a poster family for life in North Carolina's Triangle. Thank you for sharing their story.

**Nannette Wilson**

News Director, NBC 17  
Raleigh, NC

Steve was an invaluable member of the WCVB-TV/NewsCenter 5 team. A true reporter, he was always chasing stories and breaking news. It is wonderful to read of Steve's successes both at home and on television in North Carolina.

**Coleen Marren**

News Director  
WCVB-TV (ABC/Boston)

The story of Susan and Steve Sbraccia and the challenges [of] Susan's cancer diagnosis touched us all at the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS), a survivor-led cancer advocacy organization that empowers survivors and advocates for quality cancer care for all Americans. We applaud the Sbraccias for sharing their story and educating others about not only the challenges of life with cancer, but the hope, perseverance and skills one needs to navigate a life that is forever changed by this diagnosis.

Having heard so many stories like the Sbraccia's, NCCS created the Cancer Survival Toolbox, a free, self-learning audio program that helps survivors of all types of cancer learn

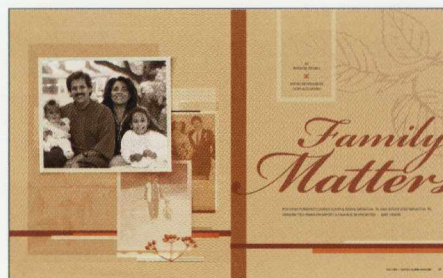
the skills that are essential to finding reliable information, making decisions about their care, and communicating effectively with their healthcare team, insurers, and employers ([www.canceradvocacy.org/toolbox](http://www.canceradvocacy.org/toolbox)).

Sadly, the Sbraccias are not alone in their encounters with bad information and struggles with inconsistent health insurance coverage. Millions of people affected by cancer are also forced to deal with the legal, financial, and psychosocial issues that accompany a cancer diagnosis. For the Sbraccias and others bravely battling cancer, it is important to know that many people have been there and have useful information about how to make the journey easier.

**Cathy Bonner**

President & CEO  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

Compelling cancer survivor stories like Susan Rist-Sbraccia's share many important life lessons with readers. And while she got the exam she credits for saving her life even before she reached the recommended age, about half of Americans aged 50 or older are not getting tests for colorectal cancer that could save theirs. While colon cancer is often found after symptoms appear, most people with early colon cancer have no symptoms of the disease. Colon cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. in both men and women, but it is one of the few cancers that can be prevented through screening because precancerous polyps, from which colon cancers often develop, can be identified



and removed. I encourage all of your readers 50 and over, as well as those at increased risk, to make sure they talk to their health care providers about the many potentially lifesaving tests

available to prevent colon cancer, so more cancer stories can, like Susan's, have a happy ending.

For American Cancer Society recommendations on colon cancer screening, visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org) or call 1-800-ACS-2345.

**Marion E. Morra, MA, ScD.**

Chair, American Cancer Society  
National Volunteer Board of Directors

## CHOOSING HER BATTLES

### Karen Connick '88

Ms. Connick's story is inspiring and typical at the same time—typical of so many who have sacrificed in this war effort. It's a blessing that she is evidently succeeding in regaining her civilian footing. Her frame of mind toward the mission—insisting that "not all Iraqis are bad"—was important.

**David Mazzarella**

Ombudsman  
Stars & Stripes Magazine

Having experienced the war firsthand, Karen Connick seems to have developed a fairly objective and balanced view of the current situation in Iraq. So perhaps it was just an unfortunate choice of highlighted text: "I always had to tell my son when he would ask me, 'So you're going to kill Iraqis?' that not all Iraqis are bad."

After invading their country on false pretenses, destroying a large part of their infrastructure, and causing the deaths of over 100,000 fighters and civilians, I can only hope that somewhere in that country there is an Iraqi mother trying to convince her child that, in spite of the evidence all around them, "not all Americans are bad."

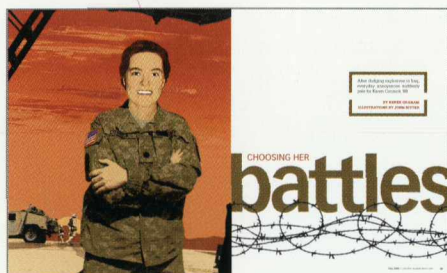
**Harry Bartnick**

Professor, NESADSU

As a fellow Suffolk alum, I want to commend Karen Connick, who was the subject of an excellent article in the last issue of the magazine. Ms. Connick has exemplified what it means to be a committed leader who has given her time to serving our nation. Her personal journey is an inspiration to those who seek to create positive change and to improve the lives of others.

As the Senate Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, I have been proud to support legislation to ensure that Massachusetts veterans receive the support





they rightfully deserve for their heroic service. From the Welcome Home Bill to outreach centers that aid returning vets daily with mental health and myriad readjustment issues, it has been an honor for me to assist our veterans who, like Ms. Connick, have served this country courageously.

**Edward M. Augustus Jr. '87**  
Massachusetts State Senator

## ORDER IN (ON) THE COURT

### Rita Roach '95

I greatly enjoyed your profile of Rita Roach—simultaneously an accomplished attorney and an NCAA basketball referee. I myself had a legal career (Michigan JD 1986, practiced corporate law 1986-1990) before eventually making my way into basketball as a co-owner of the Celtics. But Rita, I must say, did it better. First of all, she has founded her own firm and is continuing to practice; and second of all, she is actually down on the court participating in the games instead of sitting in a seat watching as I do. Cheers for her and thank you for telling her story.

**Wyc Grousbeck**  
CEO and Managing Partner  
2008 World Champion Boston Celtics

Suffolk University has many reasons to be proud of graduates such as Rita Roach. As an attorney heading her own firm and an NCAA basketball official, Rita continues to represent the intelligence, hard work, and determination that so many NCAA student-athletes—former and present—strive for every day.

Rita is one of literally thousands and thousands of examples of how it is possible to achieve success both academically and athletically. By officiating for NCAA women's basket-

ball, Rita has found a way to stay involved in the sport she loves and in which she competed as a student-athlete. By focusing on her clients' needs, she has taken what she learned in the classroom and applied it in her career.

Rita admits there are challenges in juggling her flourishing legal career and a demanding officiating schedule, but she has found a way to make time for both passions in her life. Congratulations to Rita Roach on all her success—on the court and in the courts.

**Sue Donohoe**  
NCAA Vice President for  
Division I Women's Basketball

## BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

### Mauro Maressa '73

The recent article about animator Mauro Maressa was informative and great. Among other intriguing comments, I was pleased that Mauro echoed what I have been telling my students: moving objects around in a "colorforms" kind of way doesn't make one an animator. Bringing those images to life through planning and thought, so

that people are "moved" by them, is where the art and reward resides.

**Mark Marderosian**  
Adjunct Professor, Graphic Design, NESAD



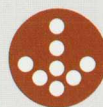
The staff at FableVision reviewed your article on Disney animator Mauro Maressa with avid interest and appreciate the focus of the article. It was interesting to note the old guard vs. new guard themes—Disney versus Pixar. Maressa mentions that he longs for the days when you could actually see flaws in the animation process—evidence of the artist's hand. The precision of computer-aided animation fights against that. One has to actively put humanity back into the media, especially with 3-D animation, which is a much more mechanical process than traditional hand-drawn animation. Maressa learned as an animator not to be too precious about every drawing—not to labor over individual frames when it's the sum of the whole that matters.

The contemporary "animator as technician" is rightly challenged. As Maressa points out, "Just because a computer will allow you to move characters around the film frame, that doesn't make you an animator." Animation software has made the art form available to a much broader audience. The result is that more people are animating, which shouldn't necessarily be viewed as a bad thing. In fact, at FableVision—advocates of creativity and self-expression—it's a liberating moment in the history of animation production. But Maressa emphasizes that an animator should breathe life into their work to give it emotion and humanity. We must remember to always put a little piece of oneself into everything [we] create.

**Paul Reynolds**  
President, FableVision, Boston



## Write to Us



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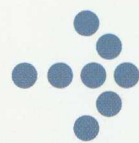
E-mail letters to:  
sam@suffolk.edu



# RAM

News on Campus and Beyond

# blings



KUDOS

## Serious acclaim for Suffolk comedy troupe

**ON HIS DEATHBED**, British actor Donald Wolfit is reported to have said, "Dying is easy, comedy is hard," but that may not be the case for Seriously Bent, Suffolk's student comedy troupe. The 10-member group recently placed second at the National College Improv Tournament in Chicago, narrowly losing to the Improv Mafia from Illinois State University.

"They felt really good about their performance, especially their semifinal round, which they thought was one of their best performances ever," said Kristin Baker, director of Suffolk's Performing Arts Office. "They had to admit that Illinois State just really, really brought it for that final round. They wanted to win, but they thought that other group was really fantastic."

Still, the final vote was "a squeaker," Baker said, with Illinois State earning three of the five judges' votes.

In the semifinal, Seriously Bent trounced Northwestern University's Titanic Players' Matador Now, 4-1. The Suffolk troupe earned the opportunity to perform at the Chicago tournament after winning the East Coast regional championship at Boston's Improv Asylum.

"They're really proud of themselves, which they should be," Baker said. "It's quite an accomplishment. This is the furthest they've ever gotten in the tournament, with more competition than they've ever had before."

POP CULTURE

## Give him an A

**EVER SINCE HE WAS A CHILD**, Suffolk biology junior Peter DiMauro wanted to appear on a game show. He finally got his chance—and a pocketful of winnings to boot—when he appeared on *Wheel of Fortune* in October.

Nearly two years ago, DiMauro, 20, signed up online to appear on the show, and he "kind of forgot about it" until last June, when he received an e-mail invitation to an in-person audition in New York. Yet he wasn't initially sure he wanted to go.

"I was back-and-forth because we had to provide for our own transportation there, and I was thinking, 'What are the odds of me getting on?'" DiMauro said. "Then I decided, 'Why not?' and one of my best friends went with me. We made a day trip out of it so that even if I didn't get on, we'd have a good time."

It was the right choice: DiMauro made it to the final round. A few

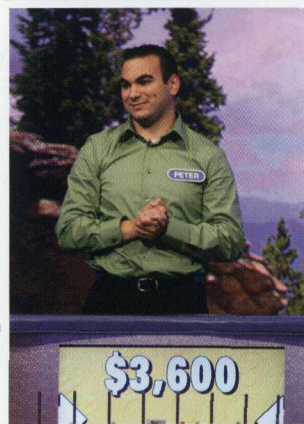
weeks later, he received a letter telling him he had been selected and would likely appear on the show within 18 months.

"I was prepared to wait for a while, but they actually called about four days later to book me for a show in August," he said.

During his stint on the long-running show, DiMauro met letter-turner Vanna White, who came backstage to wish the contestants good luck. "She's just as nice and sweet as she seems to be on TV," he said. "We didn't get to meet Pat (Sajak) other than on the game show, but while we were taping he was very good at keeping us relaxed and reminding us it was just a game. He was really nice and had a good sense of humor."

And how did DiMauro fare?

"I did really well," he said. "I came in second and I won \$9,600."







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WOMEN'S HEALTH

The graduate programs at Suffolk's College of Arts and Sciences offer recent graduates and working professionals the perfect blend of academic theory and experiential learning. You'll explore your field's latest innovations, trends, and practices with our accomplished faculty, and learn from your classmates' experiences as well. And here, Boston serves as your extended classroom—rich in exciting internships and opportunities.

## We've developed two new programs to spark your intellectual curiosity:

- The brand-new Master's in Ethics and Public Policy program, offered by our government and philosophy departments, features a cross-disciplinary curriculum for students interested in the relationships among ethics, politics, business, and the professional sector.
- Now in its second year, the Master's in Women's Health program empowers students to become effective advocates and leaders in this dynamic field.



# & COUNTING...

400

Number of artists, scholars, performing ensembles, and human rights advocates who have appeared at the C. Walsh Theatre since its 1920s opening. Guests have included John F. Kennedy, Coretta Scott King, and writer John Irving.

82

Number of countries represented by the 2008 freshman class

96

Number of comfortable seats in the new Sawyer Library

0

Number of comfortable seats in the old Sawyer Library



## OFF CAMPUS

### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

**MATTHEW POLIANITES** is giving the term "work-study" a whole new meaning.

A 19-year-old Suffolk sophomore, Polianites is the owner of the Boardwalk Skate Shop at the Burlington Mall in Burlington, Massachusetts. Polianites spends his mornings at the skateboard shop and then heads to Suffolk, where he is a student at the Sawyer Business School.

"It's long days and lots of coffee," says Polianites, who is studying global business and entrepreneurship.

Polianites began working for FreeRide, a skateboard kiosk at the mall, when he was still in high school. When FreeRide's owner left to take another job—leaving skateboarders without a local shop—Polianites seized an opportunity to open his own business.

And not just any business. Polianites, a skateboarder for 10 years, wanted a store that catered to hardcore skaters, not poseurs. On his shop's website, Polianites declares, "Our goal is to educate the mall-going public as to the differ-

ences between core skate shops like ourselves and various corporate chain-stores that tend to largely misrepresent the skateboard image. In other words, we carry brands sought after by people who skateboard, not just people who want to look like they skateboard."

"In malls, there are chain stores that will use a picture of a big bleached blonde and put a skateboard in his hands, and make it look like that's what skateboarders do. But really, they're just using skateboarding to sell stuff that has nothing to do with skateboarding," Polianites says. "People who actually skateboard come and buy stuff in our store as opposed to people who kind of want to look cool."

So far, his business, which opened in July, has been remarkably recession-proof, he says, outselling the old skateboard kiosk where he began.

"This is a dream job," Polianites says. "I sit and watch skateboard videos all day and occasionally sell stuff."

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN WEBSTER

sam@  
large

➔ **IMAGE CONSCIOUS:** James Hull, founder of the late, great Green Street Gallery in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood, has been selected as gallery director of the Suffolk University Art Gallery at the New England School of Art & Design. The gallery is exhibiting *Behind the Image*, featuring seven established Boston-area artists, through January 3, 2009.

➔ **MONSTER MASH:** Kids at the Mozart School in Boston got a special Halloween treat when Suffolk's Ready, Set, ACT! children's theater troupe performed animated storytelling for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders. Residence Life and Summer Programs hosted a Halloween party at the 10 West Street dormitory for children from the Chinatown Wang YMCA.



# SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY ALUMNI WEEKEND



## June 11–14, 2009 | What's Ours is Yours

**YOUR CITY** Use our prime downtown location as your base to explore Boston.

**YOUR UNIVERSITY** If you haven't been back in a while you'll be surprised to see how we've grown.

**YOUR WEEKEND** Join fellow alumni at any of the activities below:

- Young Alumni Networking Event at the Red Hat
- Half Century Club Luncheon
- Night at the Boston Pops with a welcome reception at Symphony Hall
- Back to the Classroom programs
- Tours of the Suffolk campus and Fenway Park
- Explore our historical city aboard a Boston Trolley or Boston Duck
- Saturday night dinners and alumni award presentations:  
Law School Dinner at the Langham Hotel  
College of Arts & Sciences and Sawyer Business School  
Dinner at the State House

**June 11–14, 2009**

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**This is your time to come home to Suffolk.**



## Famous Last Words

Wall Street Journal columnist Jeffrey Zaslow talks with SAM about a matter of life and death

When Randy Pausch, a Carnegie Mellon University computer science professor, died of pancreatic cancer on July 25, 2008, many around the world felt as if they had lost a close friend. That's because during the final months of Pausch's life, millions got to know the professor through *The Last Lecture*, the funny, heartwarming, inspiring speech he gave in September 2007, which became a YouTube phenomenon. It was later turned into a bestselling book, *The Last Lecture*, co-written by Wall Street Journal columnist **Jeffrey Zaslow**, who attended Pausch's lecture and first brought the professor to national prominence. Zaslow was recently a keynote speaker at the Alumni Association's Leadership Weekend, and he took some time to speak with SAM about Pausch and his efforts to share the professor's lessons on life and death.

**SAM:** How did you happen to be in the audience that day for Professor Pausch's "Last Lecture"?

**Jeffrey Zaslow:** I write a column about life transitions, and the [Carnegie Mellon] computer science department called [the Wall Street Journal] bureau chief in Pittsburgh saying this professor was dying, and she called me. So I went to Carnegie Mellon. I knew about this Last Lecture series, and I called Randy and he was really funny on the phone. He was on his cell phone in Virginia driving to the airport to go to the lecture. I told him to pull over so he wouldn't get into an accident, and he said, "If I die in an accident, if I die of cancer..."

**SAM:** What were your expectations of the lecture?

**Zaslow:** When I went there, I didn't even know if I had a story. I'd interviewed other people—healthy people—who'd given last lectures as a backup, in case this fizzled. But the most amazing part is the night before I left, there was a mass e-mail sent out to everyone at the Journal saying, "If you have ideas for more videos [for the newspaper's website], we'd like to see them." And I thought a video of this professor could be good if he says something. So I worked it out to get that tape—they were taping it to give to Randy's kids—and I put together a five-minute highlight video.

**SAM:** Were you surprised by the reaction that column received?

**Zaslow:** From the moment it was posted at midnight [on Tuesday], by [Wednesday] morning you could watch it spreading all over the Internet with readers sending it to each other, putting it on their blogs. It was like nothing I had ever seen before. On Thursday morning, the calls started coming from publishers. *Good Morning America* (GMA) called, and we had the only tape in New York, because it was overnighted to us to make this five-minute video. We sent the tape to GMA, Randy went on GMA, and a million people watched him on TV, then went online to watch the lecture on ABC's site. Randy loved it. He was surprised by the reaction. I saw him on the sidewalk [after the lecture], and he said he was going to Virginia to spend whatever time he had left with his wife and kids, and that was the end of it. He didn't expect it to go beyond that room. He didn't expect anything.

**SAM:** Was Professor Pausch originally interested in a book based on his lecture?

**Zaslow:** He felt conflicted about spending time away from his kids. He was dying, and he thought he only had two or three months. He wasn't sure

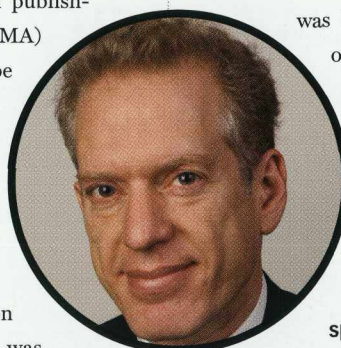
he wanted to spend his time writing a book, so it took him five weeks to agree to do it. He was thinking, "Here I have three to five months, what am I going to do—write a book for my ego?" Until he could get it clear in his own mind, he wanted to take no time from the kids. He rode his bike every day for exercise—his doctors told him to do that. So he got a cell phone headset, so he could talk and ride, and he did that for 53 days in November, December, and January. That became the book.

**SAM:** People die every day, people die of cancer every day. What was it about this man that connected so deeply with so many people around the world?

**Zaslow:** He was authentic. He was there to speak to his colleagues and students, and it's like we're eavesdropping. We think of a dying person on their deathbed with the covers pulled up, and there was Randy telling jokes and doing one-armed push-ups. It was startling, in a way. I think people see themselves in him because we're all dying. As I said in a follow-up column, his fate is our fate, sped-up.

**SAM:** When did you last speak with Professor Pausch?

**Zaslow:** My last e-mail exchange was about seven days before he died. He'd gotten an e-mail from a woman who said she hadn't spoken to her mother in 30 years, and she read the book and saw the lecture, and she [reconciled] with her mother because life's too short. So I e-mailed Randy and I said, "We've gotten a lot of e-mails from people who said they've read the book, saw the lecture, life's too short, and they've left their horrible spouse." I told him, "You're a peacemaker, but you're also a homewrecker." That was our last exchange. ☺







## SPORTS

## Rehab (no, no, no)

**W**HEN A HIGH-PROFILE, Super Bowl athlete like New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady tears his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), many assume that it's the capricious byproduct of hard-hitting professional sports. Yet an increasing number of student-athletes have also been suffering these devastating knee injuries, which require surgery and months of rehabilitation.

That's why Jeff Stone, Suffolk's head athletic trainer, recently hosted a knee injury prevention clinic for Suffolk's athletic teams.

"This is my fifth year at Suffolk, and over the past few years we've had an inordinate number of ACL injuries in a variety of sports," he says. "This clinic isn't just for our students, but also for coaches to work in pre-season conditioning, pre-game warm-ups, and post-season conditioning and strengthening to try to offset the injury."

Stone says ACL injuries can be caused by a variety of factors, such as hormones and "discrepancies between hamstring and quadriceps strength." Of course, even with conditioning and strengthening, some ACL injuries are unavoidable, Stone says.

"Look at Brady. You can be the best athlete in the world, and if you get hit the right way, if something goes wrong, you can get hurt," he says. "It may happen, but you can possibly make it less severe."

Ten years ago, it was rare for student-athletes to suffer ACL injuries, Stone says.

"Now, kids are faster, kids are stronger, the game is quicker, and we play a lot of our games on artificial surfaces," he says. "Sometimes, it's the way your foot plants. It could be the shoe you're wearing. There are a lot of variables."

Sponsored by the Suffolk University Athletics Department and Sports Medicine, the clinic's participants included Suffolk team physician Dr. Peter Asnis, who is also team physician for the Patriots, Boston Red Sox, Boston Bruins, and New England Revolution.

## CAMPUS LIFE

## A Team Effort

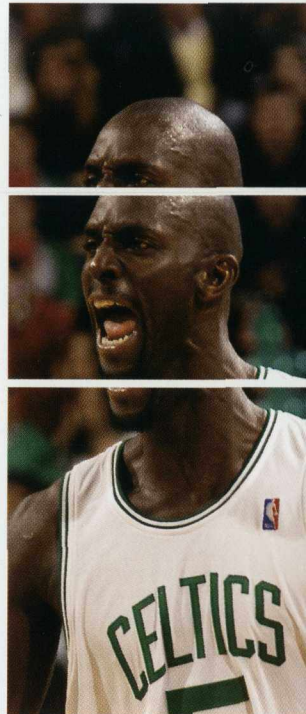
Professor Kevin Garnett, Anyone?

**OK, SO TENURE** may not be in the offing yet for the Boston Celtics All-Star forward. But the defending NBA World Champions have teamed up with Suffolk's Sawyer Business School for a program allowing students to study and analyze the franchise's marketing, business, and community initiatives. Working with Celtics personnel, students will be able to create marketing programs that could potentially be implemented by the team.

"We have developed an exciting program with Suffolk University, which presents the unique opportunity for business students to learn firsthand about the day-to-day business operations of a professional sports team," said Celtics president Rich Gotham.

"This partnership brings Suffolk University to the legendary parquet floor, alongside Boston's world champions," said John Nucci, Suffolk's vice president for external affairs. "It will put Celtics expertise in the classroom, where our students will gain concrete and tangible experience from some of the best in the sports business arena."

The arrangement includes networking opportunities for Suffolk students and alumni, speaking engagements featuring team executives, and access to the Celtics front-office personnel for the University's sports marketing and business program. And yes, Suffolk will be allowed to use the Celtics' famous leprechaun logo.



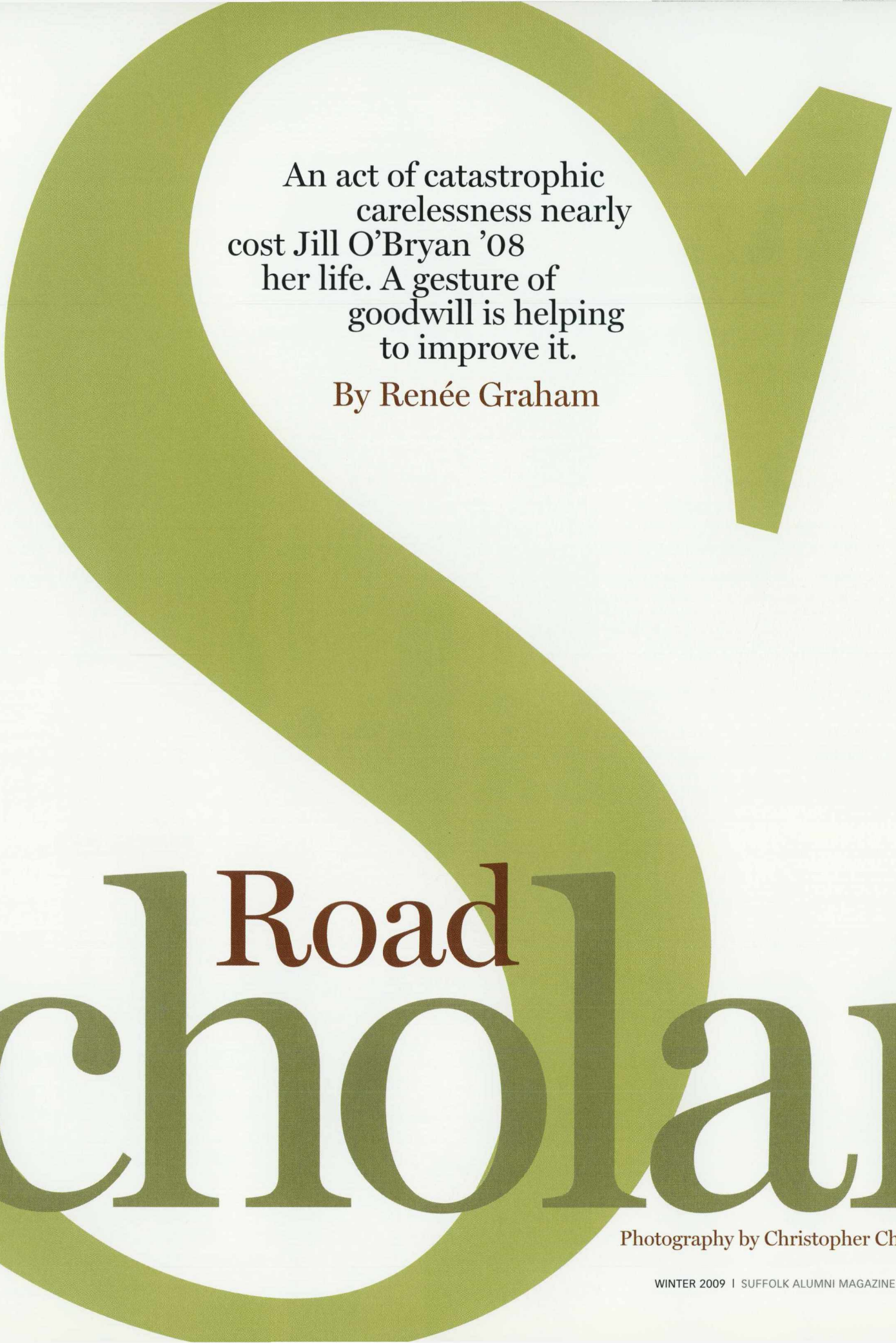
## A Taste of the Holiday

Program Council hosted its annual Thanksgiving dinner for 130 international students. Students were also treated to a short history of this distinctly American holiday by Kristin Baker, director of Suffolk's Performing Arts Office. During the event, Suffolk's Organization for Uplifting Lives through Service (S.O.U.L.S.) collected more than \$130 in donations and dozens of canned goods for Neighborhood Action, a Boston organization that aids needy families and individuals.









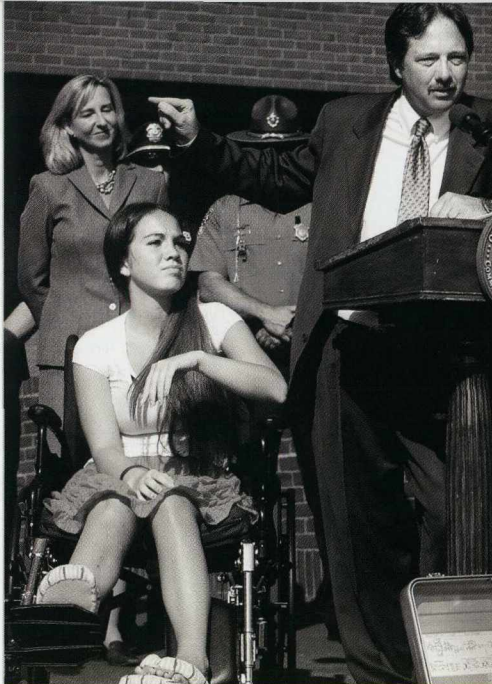
An act of catastrophic  
carelessness nearly  
cost Jill O'Bryan '08  
her life. A gesture of  
goodwill is helping  
to improve it.

By Renée Graham

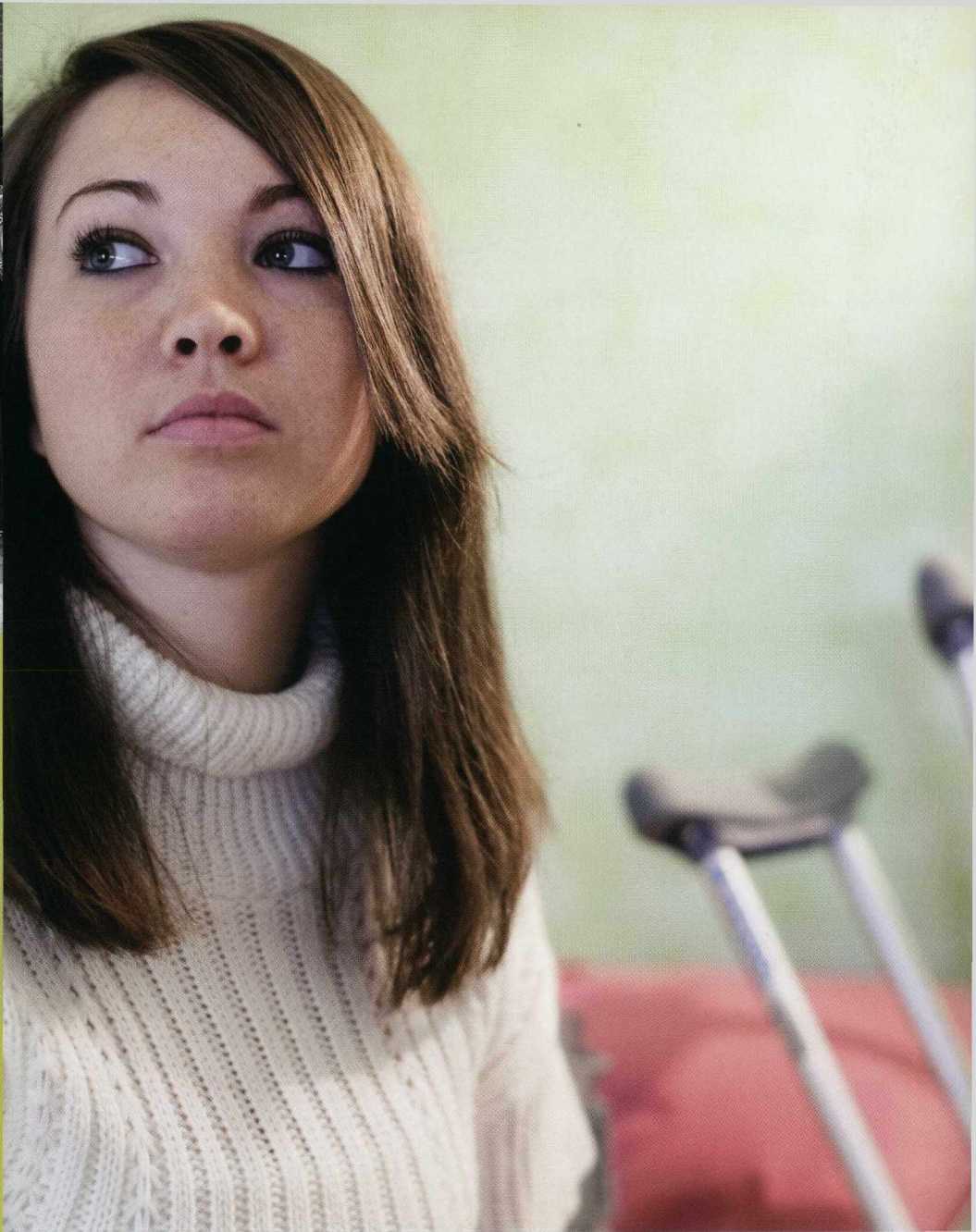
# Road Scholar

Photography by Christopher Churchill





JILL O'BRYAN FLANKED BY FORMER MASSACHUSETTS LT. GOV. KERRY HEALEY (LEFT) AND HER FATHER, RICK O'BRYAN



Even on the mornings when the pain pierces through her like a hot knife, Jill O'Bryan summons the will to lift her fragile body out of bed. Whether she's walking up a flight of stairs, driving a car, or playing with her dogs, no action is so mundane that it's not accompanied by some deep ache or nagging misery. These days, nothing comes easy, and she is slowly accepting the unvarnished fact that few physical tasks may ever be easy again.

Yet surrendering to the pain would be unacceptable. To do so, to shun the world and its charms and challenges would, in some indefinable way, allow the person she calls "that guy" to win.

"There's no way I'm going to let that guy disrupt my entire life," O'Bryan says with quiet defiance. "No way will I give him that satisfaction."

On June 8, 2005, "that guy," a drunk driver, plowed his car head-on into the vehicle in which O'Bryan was a passenger. What began as an evening jaunt to a Weymouth, Massachusetts ice cream shop with a friend ended with O'Bryan suffering a fractured pelvis, severe damage to her legs and feet, a punctured lung, a broken wrist and nose, and broken ribs. The driver, her friend Denille Fedor, sustained a broken foot and wrist. O'Bryan's injuries forced her to postpone her junior year at Suffolk, where she was studying radiation therapy.

But this year, after more than two months in the hospital, four months in a wheelchair, and a staggering 16 surgeries, O'Bryan, 23, walked across



“A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO GET HIT BY DRUNK DRIVERS DIE, SO THERE AREN'T A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO CAN TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.”

the Bank of America Pavilion stage to receive her degree, fulfilling a promise she made to herself not to allow the tragedy to derail her dreams.

“Even when I missed my junior year, I knew I was going back. There was no way I was dropping out. It was like, ‘This is something I want to do, this is something I have to do,’” says O’Bryan, as she recuperates at her home in Rockland, Massachusetts, from her 17th surgery, this one to stabilize her right foot.

“I was in a lot of pain, but when I graduated, it was probably one of the happiest days of my life,” she says with a big smile. “I knew I could do it, and I did it.”

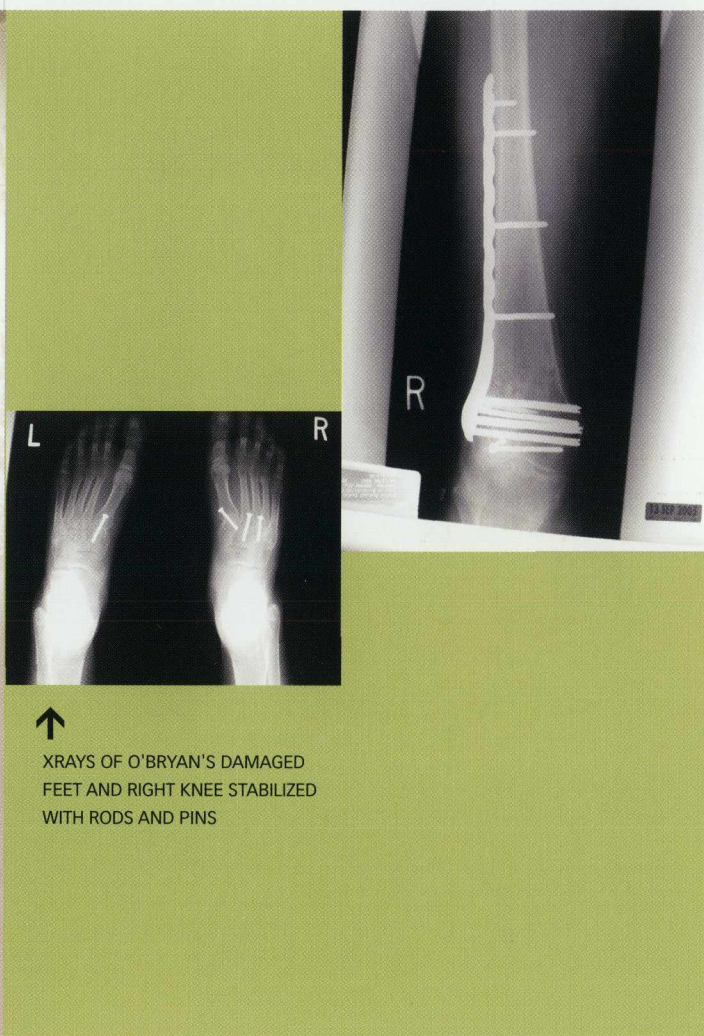
It wasn’t O’Bryan’s only shining achievement in the aftermath of her ordeal. In October 2005, Massachusetts passed Melanie’s Law, named for 13-year-old Melanie Powell, who was killed in 2003. Both Powell and O’Bryan were hit by motorists who were repeat drunk drivers, a fact that

so infuriated O’Bryan that she testified at the Massachusetts State House to encourage the passage of the bill, which calls for stricter penalties for drunk-driving recidivists.

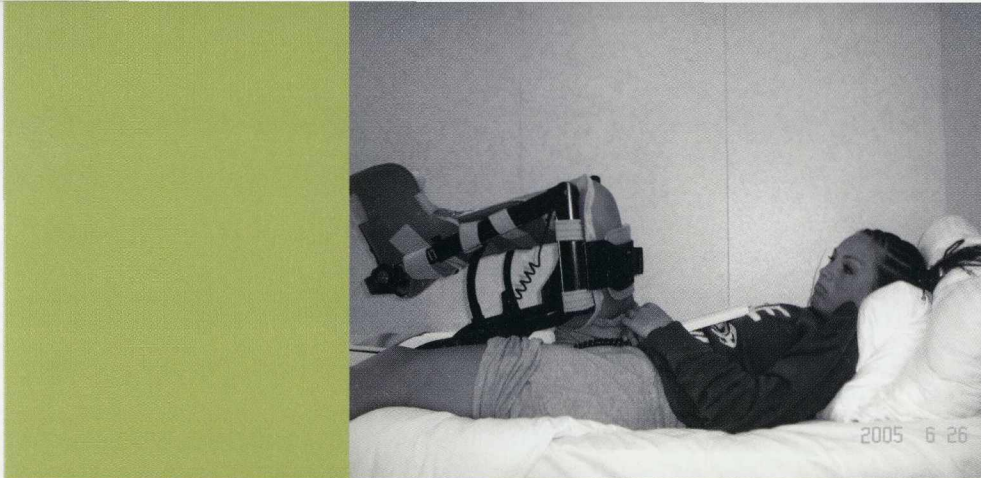
Still in her wheelchair, and only out of the hospital for a few weeks, O’Bryan’s mobility was so limited that she had to bathe in an outdoor shower and sleep in a hospital bed in the family room because she was unable to walk upstairs. As a result of her various pain medications and loss of appetite, O’Bryan’s gall bladder failed and had to be removed.

Yet in September 2005, she went to the State House and addressed a packed audience of legislators and citizens, describing her various injuries, her then-nine surgeries, and all she had endured in the past few months.

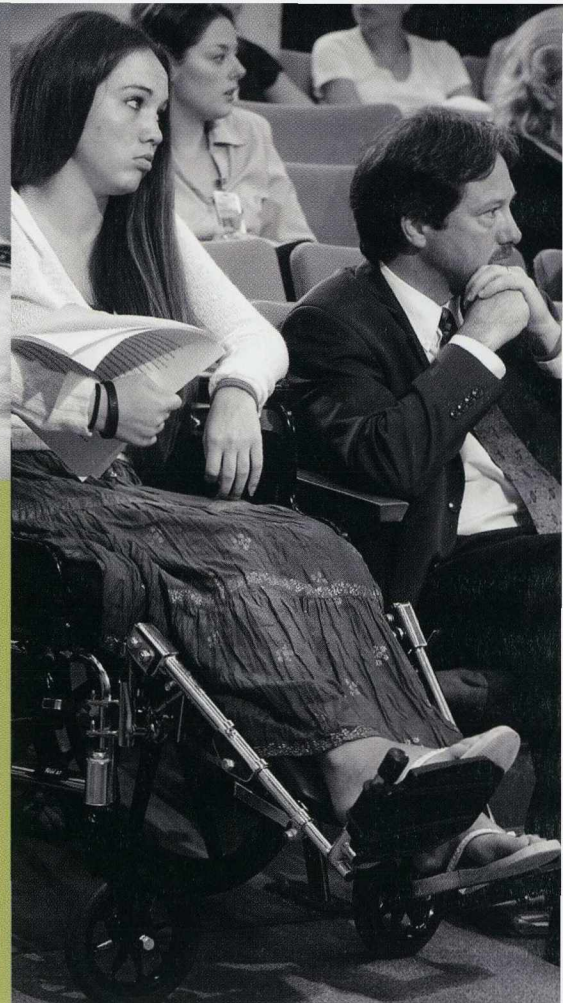
“I told them, ‘I’m supposed to be 100 feet from here, sitting in a classroom behind the State House. I should be doing my internships that I worked so hard for before someone like this screwed up my life,’” O’Bryan







O'BRYAN WITH HER FATHER, RICK, →  
WAITING TO TESTIFY AT THE MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE HOUSE ON BEHALF OF MELANIE'S BILL



recalls. "Yet he's out there living his life normally, and I'm sitting here in a wheelchair talking to you."

In a show of support, O'Bryan's mentor, Angela Lombardo '02, who was the director of Suffolk's radiation therapy program, and several of her classmates attended the hearing.

"I just wanted to help," O'Bryan says now. "A lot of people who get hit by drunk drivers die, so there aren't a lot of people who can talk about what happened."

### "Anyone's Daughter"

Three years later, Melanie's Law is having an impact. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration credits the measure with a 20-percent decrease in drunk-driving-related fatalities. And according to the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), of the 553 repeat drunk drivers who have completed the ignition interlock device program, a major component of the law, only two have been arrested again and face prosecution. An ignition interlock device is similar to a Breathalyzer, and is installed on a car's dashboard. When a driver blows into it, if it records a blood-alcohol count higher than a programmed level, the car will not start.

"These statistics give us good reason to celebrate the third anniversary of Melanie's Law," said Rachel Kaprielian '00, the state's RMV registrar. "The tougher penalties and administrative sanctions are helping to take more drunk drivers off our roadways."

Ron Bersani, Melanie Powell's grandfather, initiated the fight for tougher penalties for repeat offenders. He was already familiar with O'Bryan's ordeal when her family contacted him to offer their help and support to secure the bill's passage. Soon O'Bryan and her family joined Bersani at press conferences around the state and at the State House hearing.

"She was awesome," Bersani, of Marshfield, Massachusetts, says. "You need to put a face in front of these people. I can't tell you how many legislators came up to me and said, 'Thank God you're doing this because it's not just a bill number anymore.' It makes people realize these aren't just statistics, these are real people."

A year after her accident, O'Bryan became the first recipient of a \$6,000 scholarship from the Melanie J. Powell Memorial Fund.

"Jill could have been anyone's daughter," Bersani says. "She was just this beautiful girl in a wheelchair, her whole life interrupted in an instant because somebody chose to drive drunk."

### Moving On

Those who fought for Melanie's Law are fueled by loss and the need to forge something positive from tragedy. For Rick O'Bryan, it was also outrage after he discovered that Henry Ochoa had returned to his job managing a liquor store after causing the accident that could have killed his daughter and Fedor. With a blood-alcohol level more than double the state's legal limit of .08, Ochoa told police he was on his way home from a



“SO MANY PEOPLE WERE LIKE, ‘HOW THE HECK DID YOU DO THAT?’” O’BRYAN SAYS. “I’D JUST SAY, ‘I HAD NO CHOICE. I HAD TO DO IT.’”

wine-tasting event at the store when he first sideswiped a truck and then slammed his Ford into the car carrying O’Bryan and Fedor.

“I couldn’t believe he was still working there after the accident. The first time I left the hospital, I went in and confronted this guy,” the elder O’Bryan says, with indignation still apparent in his voice. “I kept myself back as much as that rage was there. I asked him if he knew what he did to my daughter, and he said he didn’t understand the extent of the injuries. There were no threats, but he was crying when I was done with him.” Ochoa was subsequently fired.

In March 2006, Ochoa, whose license had been suspended 10 times before the accident for various offenses, pled guilty to two counts of causing serious injury while driving drunk and second-offense drunken driving. He was sentenced to two years and has since been released. Because the accident involving O’Bryan and Fedor occurred prior to the passage of Melanie’s Law, he was not eligible for stricter penalties.

O’Bryan attended most of Ochoa’s court appearances, admitting that the first couple of times she saw him she was “just in tears. I was so mad I couldn’t even look at him. He never even apologized until it was sentencing time, until he had to say, ‘I’m sorry,’ because he wanted the judge to give him a lighter sentence. When he was reading that apology, he never even looked at me, he never looked at my family. He had no remorse at all.”

As if to let her anger subside, she pauses for a moment, shifting slightly in her chair. When she speaks again, she stops short of saying that she accepts Ochoa’s apology. “I do have a grudge,” she finally says, “but I need to move on.”

## Designated Driver

Finding a way to move on has always propelled O’Bryan, and that’s why it was so important for her to return to Suffolk. She enrolled in 2003 and originally considered law, but then decided she wanted to do “something medical” like her mother, who is a dialysis technician.

O’Bryan’s advisor, Lombardo, encouraged her to consider radiation therapy, which concerns the administration of highly focused forms of radiation to treat cancer and other diseases.

“She said, ‘This is a great program,’ and I went to [Massachusetts General Hospital] and shadowed a practicing therapist,” says O’Bryan, who made the dean’s list in 2004. “I thought, ‘I think I like this.’ I wanted to do something where I could really help people.”

O’Bryan is effusive in her praise of Lombardo, who died in 2008. “She supported me. She came to visit me a couple of times in the hospital, and she came to the State House to watch me speak. Anytime I needed her, she was always there for me.”

O’Bryan’s return to Suffolk was arduous. She commuted each day nearly 20 miles by train from her suburban home to Boston, and “her feet and legs were killing her,” her father says. “Several times she fell down the stairs because the balance wasn’t there. She’d slip and fall.”

More remarkably, O’Bryan completed her internships at various area hospitals, work which often required her to be on her feet for hours at a time. The pain, she says, was often excruciating.

“So many people were like, ‘How the heck did you do that?’” O’Bryan says. “I’d just say, ‘I had no choice. I had to do it.’”

Her father chokes up when he talks about all the tribulations his oldest daughter has had to overcome. “I have more respect for Jill,” he says with a slight catch in his voice, “than for anyone who walks the planet.”

In so many ways, O’Bryan is like other young women her age. She crows about her boyfriend, exercises her first-born child’s privilege in complaining about her two younger sisters, and she adores her dogs, Max and Nahla, whom she calls “Jugs” because they are each a mix of Jack Russell terrier and pug. But there are distinct differences. She can rattle off the names of other drunk-driving victims and survivors like others might mention the cast of the TV show *Gossip Girl*. She has a poise and strength uncommon in someone so young. And, unlike many twentysomethings, she no longer drinks.

“When I go out with my friends, I’ll be the designated driver all the time. Even my boyfriend doesn’t drink,” O’Bryan says. “People always think, ‘This will never happen to me.’ They go out to the bar Friday night, and I’m young, so I know what happens. But I’m done. I don’t even want to look at it.”

Once she’s fully recovered from her latest surgery, O’Bryan would like to start working as a radiation therapist. Yet she knows that might take a while. It’s a job that could require her to be on her feet for 10 hours a day, and right now, her right knee swells and her feet turn black and blue if she stands for too long. She also knows there are more surgeries ahead; her doctors have recommended a total replacement of her right knee, although they are hesitant because she’s so young. However difficult the months and years ahead may be, O’Bryan considers herself lucky. During her recovery at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, O’Bryan saw other patients who faced even greater odds.

“There were all these people around me whose injuries were worse than mine. One girl had been hit by a drunk driver and she was paralyzed,” she says. “I looked at these people and thought, ‘This could have been me. I will get up and I will walk.’ I won’t live a completely normal life, but I felt like I was lucky.”


Ironically, on the night of her accident, O’Bryan was already on crutches. She was recovering from surgery on her right anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), which she tore while skiing in early 2005. Now, in all likelihood, she’ll never ski again. Still, O’Bryan would prefer to think about what she has gained, instead of what she lost three years ago, when one driver’s thoughtless act shattered the stillness of a late spring evening.

“When the accident happened, it just changed my perspective on life more than anything,” O’Bryan says. “You never think about drunk driving until it hits home. Now I notice all these other families it has happened to. It’s just opened my eyes to all of that. It’s given me more of an outlook on what’s really going on out there, and I think I’m a better person for it.”









PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATHLEEN DOOHER

# Parent

Su Joun '04 left a successful  
banking career to launch her own magazine.  
That's where her story unfolds...

# Company

**By Brigid Sweeney**

It's 7:15 on a Monday morning, and the Joun household in Arlington, a suburb west of Boston, is buzzing. Wearing a variation of the typical female executive uniform—black wool-blend slacks, button-down shirt, silk scarf—Su Joun EMBA '04 is conducting her version of the typical working mom tango, trying to clear breakfast dishes, locate backpacks, and usher her two sons out the door without getting mushy cereal remnants on her shirt. ➡




➡ **Today's chaos is less controlled than usual,**

due to another typical working parents scenario: the dreaded day care emergency. Three days earlier, her husband, Myong, picked up the couple's younger son, 4-year-old Stuart, only to learn that their longtime day care center was closing. Immediately. Thanks to friends' referrals and a little bit of providence, Joun was able to secure a spot in a new program over the weekend. Still, it threw her carefully calibrated routine out of whack: she and Myong had to swap drop-off duties, and Stuart had to abruptly leave behind the children and day care providers he had known his entire life. ¶ "Finding a new day care isn't quite like finding a new dry cleaners," she says wryly.

¶ Indeed, not much about a working parent's life is simple, particularly when one is also career-oriented and entrepreneurial-minded. Her reality bore little resemblance to the breezy portrayals she read in parenting magazines, with their recipes and seasonal craft projects. Yet reading these magazines inspired her to answer every entrepreneur's challenge: a need that wasn't being met.





"When a working mom and her spouse are alone and actually have time to discuss ideas beyond what's for dinner—the results can be amazing."



## Welcome to Boot Camp

If there's anything Su Joun knows how to do, it's adapt. After emigrating from South Korea to Somerville when she was 7, Joun enrolled at Boston College with the intention of becoming a doctor. But after two years, she realized her passion lay elsewhere.

"My parents very much wanted me to become a doctor, so when I decided to do something different, I thought I should put my money where my mouth was and pay my own way," she says. She left school in 1991 and took a job as a teller at Key Bank to earn tuition money and plot her next move. Fifteen years later, she was still with the company as director of consumer strategy. Along the way, she earned her bachelor's in sociology from Harvard's Extension Program, got married, and became the mother of Marshall, now 8, and Stuart.

As both her family and career continued to grow, Joun learned to navigate the constant

to focus her lifelong entrepreneurial ambitions. Right around the time Joun graduated in 2004, she and her husband were struggling with sudden behavioral changes in then-4-year-old Marshall. The couple searched the Internet, read books, and combed through every parenting magazine, only to be disappointed by the uniformly generic information available.

By chance, Joun had lunch with a co-worker who also was the mother of a 4-year-old boy. "We were amazed by the similarities in their behaviors," she says. "I went home so comforted, knowing that this was just a phase and able to focus on a solution. That's when I realized that parents are the best source for a parenting magazine."

## An "Aha!" Moment

One night in August 2005, though exhausted after another 16-hour day, Joun couldn't sleep. "It was 11:30 p.m. and the house was quiet,

too superficial," Joun says. In the end, she eschewed classic parenting philosophies in favor of one underlying value: respect. By talking to her boys calmly, by designating individual playtime with each, and by reinforcing the value of hard work by example, she ensures Marshall and Stuart value themselves, their family, and their peers.

"If my kids understand some basic, fundamental things—that you can only expect from people what you give to them; that everybody is inherently good; that you can't get anything for free—then I will consider myself a success as a parent," she says.

Joun's online musings soon grew into a self-published book by the same title. But she felt like she wasn't reaching a wide enough audience, and she was itching to start a company of her own.

"I still felt something that was missing," Joun said. Her frustration with mainstream magazines clarified her next move. "I realized there

I said, 'Honey, are you ready to face three years of losing money?  
Are we willing to face bankruptcy? Are we willing to lose our home?  
Are we willing to follow this to the ends of the earth?'

juggling act with little guidance. She made no apologies for being a working mom, but also expected no special treatment, finishing projects before deadlines so she could walk out the door, guilt-free, at 5:00 p.m. She also decided to pursue an executive MBA at Suffolk's Sawyer Business School.

"I realized that as a mother, finding a job that was going to meet my needs was going to be harder," Joun says. "I wanted to make sure nothing would hold me back, so I needed to add that extra degree."

When she describes her experience at Suffolk, fondly, it's not hard to picture an academic version of boot camp. "Going through this very intense situation together bonded us," she says of her fellow students. "All of us in the accelerated 18-month program had full-time careers; many of us had families. We'd all be dying, staying up until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning to get our work done, and then we'd see each other every single Saturday for eight hours a day."

In addition to fostering friendships and business connections, the program also helped her

but my brain was so full that I had to spill my thoughts so I'd be able to sleep," she recalls. Riding the train that morning en route to work, she'd read a newspaper article about blogging—and at that point, typing seemed an easier task than writing with pen and paper.

Her thoughts became a blog, called *A Mother of Two's Guide to Sanity*, starting Joun on a path to becoming a writer. She penned a meditation on the sexism implicit in McDonald's Happy Meal toys; for example, the restaurant markets a dress-up Build-A-Bear as the "girls' option" and offers Superman and Timber Wolf action figures for boys. She offered honest reflections about anger and disciplining children. By sharing her own parenting trials and errors, she realized how eager other parents were for straightforward, judgment-free advice.

The popularity of television shows like *Supernanny* further underscored her belief that parents value tried-and-true suggestions delivered in a no-nonsense manner.

"All the parenting books by experts were too long and too technical, while magazines were

was a real need for a magazine that offered more than just tips on how to dress your kid for winter and how to make great Halloween decorations."

Joun's "aha!" moment came in 2006, when Key Bank sent her to Florida as a reward for bringing in new business. Her husband, Myong, came too; the kids stayed home.

"When a working mom and her spouse are alone and actually have time to discuss ideas beyond what's for dinner—the results can be amazing," she says. "We talked about our future, and I had so many ideas for this magazine, and we decided to go for it."

That was in April. Four months later, Joun became her own boss. She knew nothing about the magazine industry ("If I had known a thing about it, I would have been way too scared to do anything," she says with a laugh); nothing about soliciting writers or negotiating printing costs. All she knew was that she wanted to create a magazine written entirely by parents.



"Most parenting magazines are like women's magazines—it's just regurgitated information over and over again," Joun says. "Parenting magazines revisit the same topics—discipline, siblings, the trials and tribulations of being a parent—without really going into depth about any topic. I wanted to make a magazine that would focus on one particular topic per issue and devote 10-14 articles written by parents about that topic."

She launched her publication, aptly named *Parents for Parents* magazine, as an in-depth quarterly journal that she hoped would serve as an alternative to glossy, superficial parenting magazines. The first issue, one that focused entirely on the complexities of discipline, debuted in summer 2007.

In seeking a partner to serve as the magazine's editor, Joun immediately turned to a friend from her Suffolk days. She asked Linda Deane EMBA '04 to focus on editorial, while she managed the business side and articulated the broader vision. Deane, a working mom who serves as the chief information officer at Brockton's Old Colony YMCA, had no qualms about jumping into a start-up magazine.

mother to talk about spanking a child and how she felt afterwards."

Joun also wanted the magazine to act as a de facto *Consumer Reports* for parents, of sorts. Joun purchased and tested everything from Olay Daily Facials wipes to a device that easily removes the plastic plugs that parents use to child-proof electrical outlets.

The entirely pragmatic approach won the attention of working mothers across the country. Later issues tackled everything from work-life balance to cures for common childhood sicknesses. By summer 2008, *Parents for Parents* had reached a circulation of 10,000 and was sold in more than 200 stores. Joun's relentless search for new voices had turned up contributors from as far away as India.

But Joun's single-minded idealism soon confronted the harsh realities of print publication. Because she hated flipping through scores of advertisements before hitting content, *Parents for Parents* put ads exclusively at the end of articles and in the back of the magazine. Joun was determined to keep its ratio of advertising to editorial content—typically a 45 to 55 percent ratio—to a 25 to 75 percent ratio.

## Surviving a Financial Meltdown

Since then, life has not been easy. Joun took a job in Waltham with Richard Branson's Virgin Money that, ironically, she found via an ad on her *Parents for Parents* website. She managed the student loan arm of the company, which seeks to formalize informal lending between family members and friends.

But even a business buoyed by a billionaire can't avoid fallout from the financial meltdown. Joun had always equated a corporate job with security. Yet at the end of October, as one of the company's newest employees, she found out her job was eliminated.

"I felt like I had been hit in the stomach," she says.

But she remains philosophical, taking the time to enjoy a respite and consider the future. Joun hopes to revisit the magazine at some point, perhaps with a new angle that combines her two loves, parenting and publishing.

"I'm thinking about [honing] in on parent-owned companies to advertise and really create a niche," she says. "I really wanted people to be interested in the advertisements

"If I had known a thing about it,  
I would have been way too scared to do anything."

"I knew if Su was involved that it would be great," she said. "Su helped if I needed it, provided as much time as possible for deadlines, listened when I recommended rejection of an article, and always maintained a focus about the mission of the magazine."

Determined to give parents a voice, Joun and Deane purposely sought out non-professional writers. *Parents for Parents* included a miscellaneous section at the end of each issue to serve as a creative outlet for novice parent writers. Contributors submitted artwork, short stories, essays, and poems. Joun spent night after night combing the Internet for parenting blogs, hoping to unearth a strong voice. She would contact potential writers through the comments section and offer to pay them in the form of \$25 gift cards.

"I didn't want essays and articles about tough topics like discipline to always have this nice, neat ending for the sake of writing skills," she says. "I wanted it to be sort of raw; I wanted a

Moreover, she insisted on thicker paper stock because she wanted *Parents for Parents* to be a lasting resource that parents could page through again and again.

In September, a nose-diving economy, increasing paper costs, and flagging advertising revenue forced Joun to put the magazine on the back burner. It was an incredibly painful decision, but it taught her a lot about herself and her family.

"When I was on the cusp of making this decision, one of my options, of course, was to push ahead," she says. "I looked to my husband, and I said, 'Honey, are you ready to face three years of losing money? Are we willing to face bankruptcy? Are we willing to lose our home? Are we willing to follow this to the ends of the earth?'"

"He looked at me and he said, 'Su, if you tell me to jump, I will.' And I looked at him and I said, 'Because I know you would, I can't do it.' And that was that."

because they would be for very innovative items, rather than the same old stuff you flip through." She'd prefer to fill her pages with ads for children's yoga items or portable chair boosters than with pitches for Huggies and Similac that permeate magazines like *Cookie* and *Parenting*.

Given *Parents for Parents'* track record, she thinks a publication could succeed with a bit more time.

"It would have taken me three to five years to start making money," she said. "If I could do it again and reach out to enough people with enough capital to last a few years, I have no doubt we could succeed. Our articles were getting better. Our pictures were getting better. We were hitting our stride."

At the same time, she knows she can never be too sure about what the future holds.

"The main thing I've learned in my 40 years," she muses, "is that you're always going to chuckle at how your life turns out." ☺



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX NABAUM

By Michael Blanding

# THE CHILD WHISPERER

IN HER WORK WITH TROUBLED KIDS, KATHY REGAN '05 SPEAKS SOFTLY AND CARRIES A TALL GIRAFFE

Photography by Chris Churchill

Kathy Regan huddles on a bed with “Steven” (not his real name), a 7-year-old with shaggy blonde hair and a pixie-like face, who is clutching a Game Boy in his hands. “I want the Star Wars!” he whines, although he already has the game. Regan takes a deep breath. “Wait, wait,” she says. “I am trying to understand you.” Leaning her head down toward the video game with him, she asks a few questions before figuring out what Steven means to say: he wants the stylus, the pen used on the touch screen that allows him to play faster. “Is there something else we can use?” continues Regan, knowing the stylus is prone to breaking. “What about another pen?” She hurries down the hall to her office and returns with a yellow highlighter. Steven smiles widely, seeming—for a moment—like any other 7-year-old playing his favorite game.







## But Steven isn't just any 7-year-old.

He suffers from a psychological cocktail of mood disorders, sensory issues, and language-processing problems, which together result in an extremely low frustration tolerance. Within 45 seconds, a momentary annoyance about a video game can turn into a two-hour explosion of kicking, screaming, overturning tables, and ripping posters off walls.

"It would have been a big scene really quick," Regan explains from her office at the Child Assessment Unit (CAU), the inpatient children's mental health facility she runs at Cambridge Hospital in Massachusetts. "You have to zoom in and be a detective fairly quickly or he will melt down. And if he has one meltdown, he is that much more likely to have another one." Steven's face is pocked with cuts and bruises from his previous facility, where he was repeatedly held down and restrained by staff. Since arriving here two weeks ago, however, his explosions have nearly ceased. A few days ago, one of the nurses, Ed Santana, sat Steven down and asked him, "You behave here, why don't you behave at other places?" Steven's answer: "It's different here. You listen to us."

Steven's simple response captures, to a T, Regan's philosophy about child psychiatric care. Since arriving at the CAU eight years ago, she has pioneered a "kinder and gentler" form of care that is nothing short of revolutionary, virtually eliminating the use of restraints and solitary confinement which are standard practice at child mental health facilities. As she describes in her recent book, *Opening Our Arms: Helping Troubled Kids Do Well*, her approach starts with the assumption that children explode when they feel they have no other alternative; traumatizing them with physical restraints will only make their behavior worse. "We have tried really hard to respect kids and see them as equals," she says. "When they get it that you are really trying to understand them, that is really powerful."

A graduate of the Sawyer Business School's Master of Health Administration program, Regan has short red hair and glasses. Her office walls are covered with snapshots of former residents, smiling and goofing around with staff. The rest of the office is full of pictures and sculptures of giraffes, which Regan says she likes because they are "gentle." Around the unit, her commitment to kids is apparent

at every turn. The former "quiet room," once used for solitary confinement, has had its door removed. The second seclusion room has been turned into a storage closet, where staff keep mattresses for parents, who are encouraged to come and sleep over with their kids at the unit. Another storage closet is full of games, craft materials, and sports equipment, including, surprisingly, multiple pairs of rollerblades for use in the carpeted hallways. "If we can do nothing else to help a kid's self-esteem, after two weeks they will be able to rollerblade," she deadpans. Bedrooms and bathrooms are locked from the *inside*, so children can get out whenever they want, but adults and other children can't get in without a key—a crucial security feature for children who have experienced trauma from caregivers or strangers in the past.

Over time, the unit has borne impressive results, with no mechanical or chemical restraints since 2002, and a gradual reduction in the use of physical holds by staff: ten in 2004; two in 2007; and zero in 2008. Meanwhile, serious injuries sustained by staff have also decreased to zero, and staff turnover—once as high as 20 percent a year—has virtually ceased. Regan's results have gotten increasing national attention. "I have met and listened to 20 papers of people who remake their unit and bring in a new philosophy, and that's the last you ever hear from them," says Kathy Delaney, a professor at Chicago's Rush College of Nursing who has conducted some of the definitive studies on restraint reduction. "Kathy keeps thinking of ways to make it better. She gets people to think about 'How can I bring out the best in these kids?'"

### THREE BASKET THEORY

Bringing out the best in the children at the CAU is not an easy task. Some have developmental disorders such as autism; most, however, have acquired psychiatric problems as a result of



## ALL IN THE FAMILY

Being able to spend time on the Child Assessment Unit can make a world of difference for parents like Jon and Lydia White-Spunner, whose daughter Hannah was a resident off and on for more than a year. Hannah seemed normal until age 7, when she began getting increasingly agitated, often deteriorating into screaming and kicking fits. After an explosion at school, her parents rushed her to the emergency room at Children's Hospital Boston, which referred them to Cambridge. "It was a terrifying first night," says Jon. Sleeping there made it easier, especially when they woke up the next morning to one of the nurses making pancakes for breakfast. "He made it feel really warm," says Lydia. "I was kind of shocked."

Over the next month, they slept over every other night, and they began to think of the staff as part of an extended family. "The staff really cared about what was happening at home, and they really took care of us mentally," says Lydia. That care ranged from giving tips on how to wean Hannah off her diet of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to inquiring about Hannah's twin sister, Oonagh. And the attention they paid to Hannah, her parents say, cut down on her outbursts. "Hannah is a person who needs people who are, for want of a better expression, warm and fuzzy. The staff came to love her and she came to love them," says Jon. Even now, on visits from the residential treatment center where she currently lives, Hannah asks to go to the CAU so she can see her old friends.

The experience could not be any more different from another facility where Hannah went briefly for a transition period. "They were lumps," says Lydia. "It seemed they had no care for the child at all." Eventually, Hannah was diagnosed as having a case of autism and mild mental retardation, possibly brought on by a brain disease called PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections). The disease, triggered by strep infections like strep throat and scarlet fever, affects children who have Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and/or tic disorders like Tourette Syndrome, but it can reverse itself by puberty. Fortunately, the residential facility that the White-Spunnings found for Hannah has a similar philosophy of limiting restraints. They hesitate to think of what might have been if they weren't lucky enough on that first day to get a referral to Cambridge. "I will donate toys and books and whatever I can afford there from now on," says Lydia. "It's a traumatic experience for everyone involved, and to find a place where it is a perfect fit for my child, it was a godsend."

serious trauma or neglect. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health estimates that 85 percent of children in social services have lost a parent or caregiver. One in 10 has seen a relative shot. Others are immigrants fleeing war or genocide in their home country. They stay for a period of anywhere from a few days to a few months while staff assess where they would be best served—whether in a family setting or a residential mental health facility.

Despite the serious challenges in breaking through to these children, Regan's approach is in many ways as simple as A-B-C. For every instance of misbehavior, staff determine whether the child is in danger of harming themselves or others. Then they categorize the behavior, assigning it to one of three metaphorical "baskets." If the behavior will lead to imminent, serious physical harm, staff put it in Basket A and intervene, often by getting other children out of the way of the child throwing the tantrum, and picking up the wreckage afterwards. If the behavior isn't hurting anyone, staff put it in Basket C and simply ignore it. Oftentimes, when staff don't pounce right away, a child will calm down without the need for discipline. "We have much more tolerance for what we consider disruptive behavior," says Regan.

Most of the work of the unit, however, is done in the middle—Basket B—when a child is misbehaving in a way that could escalate into violence, but is not yet putting anyone in physical danger. In this case, rather than enforce a series of increasingly punitive disciplinary methods, Regan and her staff try to help the child work it out themselves, using a technique called Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS). First they try to understand the problem. ("You want the stylus.") Next they work with the child to come up with choices to solve it. ("Is there something else we can use?")

Just because the unit has a lenient policy towards disruptive behavior doesn't mean they don't have rules. "A lot of people hear this and think the kids get away with murder," says Regan. "We do have expectations, but if they don't meet our expectations, our way of responding is different." Deep down, she says, most children want to be social and be part of a loving community, but some just don't know how. "We try and help kids figure out how to make good choices, but in order to do that, they have to have the ability to make choices."

The philosophy of Collaborative Problem Solving was created by Ross Greene, an associate clinical professor at Harvard Medical School who became a mentor to Regan when she first started at Cambridge Hospital in 2001. At that time, the unit was a revolving door for managers; staff injuries were twice the state average; morale was at an all-time low; and the hospital was looking for a way to shake things up. Regan was, in many ways, perfectly suited for the job: she brought a wealth of experience as a social worker, a nurse, and—perhaps most importantly—as a mother who knew firsthand about child mental health issues.

Growing up in New York and Connecticut, she had two role models who were social workers—her mother and grandmother—so she assumed that she, too, would go into a helping profession. "It was in the air we breathed," she says. Right out of college, she became a caseworker for the Massachusetts Department of Social Services, but she was frustrated by the systemic problems in the department caused by a lack of resources and jaded judges. "I am not one for staying long in a job where I can see something wrong but can't fix it," she says.

She opted to leave social work to pursue another helping profession, nursing. In part, her decision was influenced by an experience she had in fourth grade: she got into a bicycle accident that tore her ankle down to the Achilles tendon, requiring 74 stitches and a week in the hospital. Scared and helpless, she dreaded some of the nurses, who would punish her for not eating dinner by taking away television privileges, or would jab her roughly with needles. Other nurses were kindhearted, however; they would comfort her by reading books or helping her call her parents. "The whole experience left an impression on me on a very deep level," says Regan. "When you are a nurse, people are at their most vulnerable. They really depend on you for a positive experience."

After attending nursing school, she worked at McLean Hospital, a psychiatric hospital outside of Boston, and managed a crisis center on the South Shore. But her most practical training in child mental health work came when she had trouble having children, and she adopted a child who was later diagnosed with learning disabilities and behavior problems, leading to violent outbursts. Frustrated by doctors and teachers who consistently misdiagnosed the problem as simply Attention Deficit



Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and rarely coordinated with each other, she doggedly consulted an “underground network” of parents to finally get her son the care he needed. When Regan applied for a job at Cambridge Hospital, she saw it as the perfect opportunity to make a difference for parents in a similar situation. She contacted Greene and convinced him to train her staff and help her implement CPS, which had never before been applied in a clinical setting. In return, Greene would get data to test his theories.

The arrangement was perfect, except for one problem: staff at the CAU had been following the standard techniques for years—some of them for decades—and getting them to change their ways for an unproven method would not be easy. “Any facility like that one has hard moments routinely. Adding a culture shift to that mix is extremely difficult,” says Greene, who was impressed with Regan’s persuasive abilities with staff. “You are asking people to question their beliefs and change their practices, and that takes resolve and determination and a sense of mission about what you are trying to accomplish, and she has all of those things.” If Regan had anything going for her, it was that enough staff members were so frustrated with the lack of control on the unit they were willing to try anything. “Most people work here because their hearts go out to these kids with unbelievably difficult lives,” says Regan. “They were being forced into situations where they were going home and just not feeling good.”

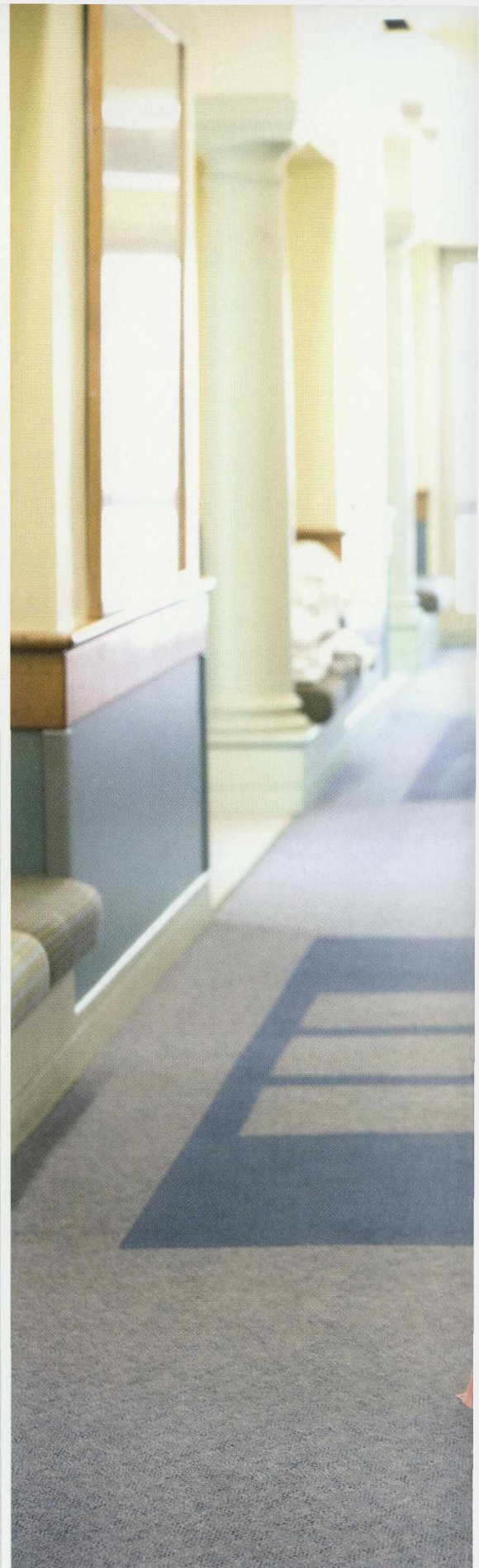
Even before Regan arrived at the CAU, the unit’s education coordinator, Angela Perry, felt uncomfortable with the constant restraints and seclusion; sometimes children went into the “quiet room” for 55 minutes of every hour. One day Perry, a 14-year veteran in the children’s mental health field, tried sitting in the room herself for 55 minutes. “I was going to go out of my mind,” she says. Even so, she was skeptical of the new techniques. “Everybody was like, ‘This sounds great but practically, how do we get there?’” At first she had trouble using Basket B. She’d give kids choices about whether to attend school but would feel angry when she saw a truant child playing a Game Boy later. “I’d reflexively go in my mind to ‘No school, no fun,’” she says. Eventually, she realized that quelling bad behavior with the old techniques

was more about making things easier for staff, not for the child who was misbehaving. “If you look at it from the point of view of what’s best for the child, it’s easy,” she says. Now if a child doesn’t go to school, she tries to get them to talk about the consequences—that they won’t learn, or they might stay back. At other times, Perry teaches lessons in a child’s room, or eases them into the classroom a few minutes at a time.

For every staff member who adapted to the new techniques, however, there was another who left. “It was definitely a tough transition,” agrees nurse Santana. “There were a lot of naysayers.” Some nights, he’d calm a child with CPS, only to have another staff member come along and sabotage his work with hard discipline. One night, Santana lost his temper with another staff member, grabbed her by the lapels, and pushed her out of the room—an act he still regrets. Other staff lost friends who just couldn’t get comfortable with the new ambiguity. Under the previous regime, says nurse Kerrie McAllister, “You had a real clear 1, 2, 3, 4 if a child was going downhill,” she says. “It was scary to throw that away and go into your bag of tricks and hope something would work.”

If there was one thing that got McAllister through it, it was having Regan out on the floor with the rest of the nurses, trying to figure out the new techniques together. Every week, the staff would meet with Greene to discuss what worked and what didn’t, and to develop new protocols. At the same time, Regan was learning to be leader. In her book, she describes a “high noon” moment when she had to confront a staff member who denied a child a cupcake on her birthday because she had mouthed off in the cafeteria. In front of everyone, Regan gave the cupcake to the girl as the other staff member slammed a tray on the table and walked out. She received the enmity of one staff member, at the same time earning the loyalty of many others.

Regan refined her leadership skills at Suffolk through a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurological Disorders) Fellowship, a federally funded program for mental health professionals. A collaboration with UMass Medical Center, the Suffolk Public Administration program is the only one of 50 LEND fellowships in the country that offers a master’s degree. “We couldn’t help Kathy design the curricu-








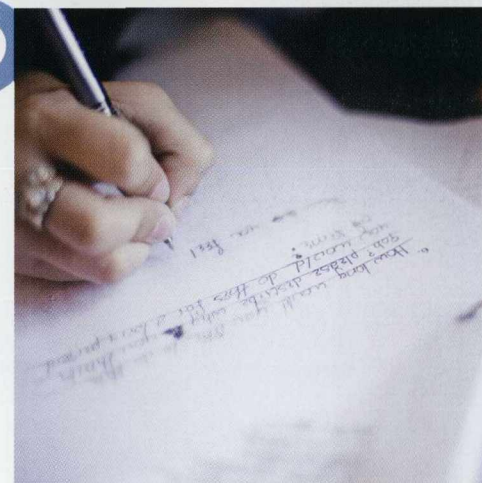
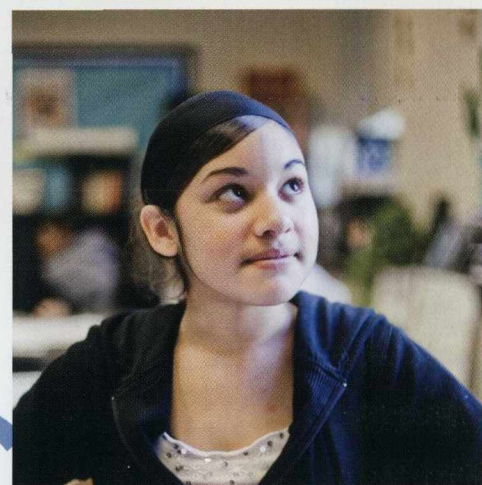
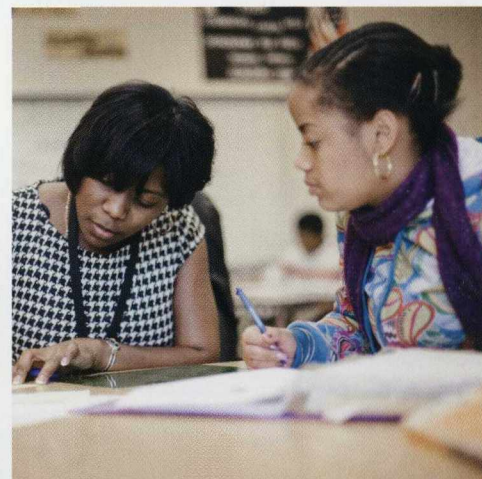
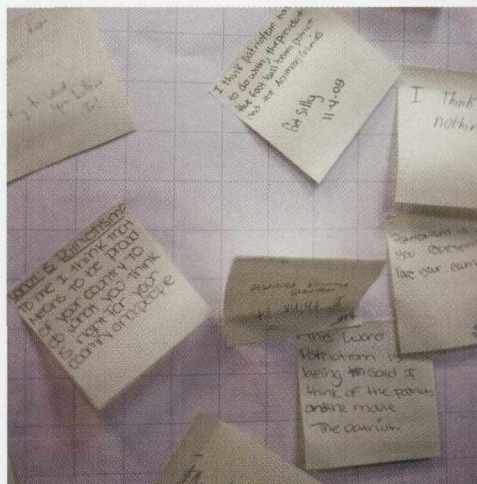
lum she has put in place, but we could teach the strategies she used to make the changes,” says Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator Sandy Matava. “Dealing with staff who are having a hard time is not what you learn in nursing school.” For Regan’s part, she says her brain “grew 10 years” through the experience. “They really plug into your passion,” she says. “I learned a lot about leadership and got a theoretical basis for something I was doing on instinct.”

#### MEASURING SUCCESS

The spirit of collaboration that Regan fostered goes beyond the staff or even the patients: parents are included, too. The CAU has an unusual open-door policy, allowing parents to visit any time they want or even sleep at the unit, night after night. In addition to setting parents at ease (see “All in the Family,” pg. 29), the arrangement often gives staff valuable insight into a child’s behavioral problems, and it sometimes allows them to teach parents the basics of CPS to better manage their child. “We have the hardest time for parents when they drop their kids off and never see them,” says Regan. “This is the equivalent of being in an ICU. Would you ever put a relative into an ICU and never visit them?”

Despite the decrease in restraints and injuries on the unit, there is currently little hard evidence that Regan’s techniques have led to better outcomes for children. In part, says Rush College’s Delaney, that’s the nature of the field; children have so many different kinds of problems that it’s like comparing apples with oranges. Restraint reduction is also easier for short-term inpatient units like the CAU, explains Delaney, rather than long-term residential care facilities. “These people are in there day after day, they do the heavy lifting sometimes,” she admits. “No one goes into work saying, ‘I want to hold down a kid today.’” Regan is adamant, however, that her techniques can be applied anywhere. “Regardless of what the quantitative data is, humane practices have to spread,” she says. Time and again, she returns to the issue of fairness. “Maybe kids will come out of here stronger, knowing that there are fair people out there as well as unfair people,” she says. While her techniques may or may not be more effective in helping children with mental disorders, she is certain of one thing: “There is a potential for resiliency in children, no matter how bad their adversities.” 





# HEAD OF THE CLASS

Others see at-risk kids. Darlene Marciano '03  
sees the nation's untapped potential.

BY RENÉE GRAHAM

[ PHOTOGRAPHY BY LEAH FASTEN ]









"All right, folks! Homework on your desks! Let's get going!"

It's 9:20 a.m. in Darlene Marcano's 9th grade humanities class at The Engineering School in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood.

As her 18 students, most clad in their *de rigueur* hoodies and impossibly baggy jeans, settle into their chairs, they are greeted by a grammatically-challenged paragraph beamed from an overhead projector.

"There are 18 errors in this paragraph," Marcano announces. "You have 10 minutes to find as many as you can."

After some minor bristling, the students get to work, highlighting missing quotation marks and identifying proper nouns. Marcano walks through the rows of seats, peering over shoulders and encouraging her students. "Not bad, not bad," she says to one boy who has quickly spotted 15 mistakes.

An initially drowsy mood sparks into a kind of friendly joust. The students not only want to outdo each other, but also to impress their teacher. They vie for her attention and ask for a few more minutes, each wanting to prove how many errors they've spotted. When the exercise is done, she asks them to define one of the paragraph's words, "masticating."

Several hands jut into the air, and a girl says it means chewing. "Look at you!" Marcano says, her voice brimming with enthusiasm and pride.

These public school students are what some call "at risk," from neighborhoods tainted by crime, hardship, and low expectations. Yet Marcano, who earned her master's degree in education at Suffolk, sees something altogether different in their faces: a nation's untapped potential.

"I love these kids because I remember *being* those kids," says Marcano, sitting in her classroom at the end of the long school day. "You're really smart, and you just don't have someone that's really pushing you." A graduate of the esteemed Boston Latin School, Marcano strives to model herself after teachers who guided her through her formative years, those who saw her potential and nurtured it.

"I was lucky to have that growing up, and I want to make sure I'm doing what I can to give them that kind of attention and support."

## "NO SLANG" ZONE

Charismatic and effervescent, Marcano, 35, is the kind of teacher students remember fondly,

long after they've graduated. She's petite, about the same height as most of the girls, and even dressed in professional attire she looks more like an older sister than their teacher.

Her classroom is filled with items to pique their curiosity. Vocabulary words such as "en-sconce," "grouse," and "vexatious" adorn one wall, while nearby there are inspirational quotes by William Shakespeare, French poet Arsène Houssaye, and Greek philosopher Epictetus.

She is always engaging her students, and no one is allowed to get through a class without participating; even if their hand isn't raised, they expect to be called upon for an answer or opinion. During a discussion about the Boston Massacre, Marcano splits her students into two-person teams, making sure that the kids work with others besides their friends. They must write a short skit, with each student on the team assuming either the role of a British soldier or an American colonist.

Instead of a staid lesson, she brings the event to life by placing the students in the minds of the opposing sides. Of course, melding 21st-century realities with 18th-century history takes a little effort.

"This is the 18th century. No AK-47s, no smart bombs, and no slang," Marcano reminds her students.

"Can you say 'yo-eth?'" asks one boy, half-joking. "No, you can't say 'yo-eth,'" Marcano replies with a smile. Another student asks if the colonists spoke with British accents, and Marcano says they likely did. No child is ever overlooked, and no question is ever dismissed.

"She's able to connect with students on multiple levels," says Marc Abelard, the school's director of partnerships and external affairs. "I think one of the things Darlene does best is set high expectations for her students. She doesn't let them shortchange themselves, and she's been a great asset to The Engineering School."

Founded in 2005, The Engineering School, which is part of Hyde Park High School's Education Complex, is designed to encourage minorities and young women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The school, which spans grades 9 to 12, has open enrollment. Ninety percent of its 329 students are minorities.

It's exactly the kind of academic atmosphere Marcano was looking for when she joined The Engineering School three years ago. Having worked at two middle schools, Marcano was

looking to move to the high school level. After transferring to Hyde Park as a humanities teacher, she took a physics-based engineering class at Northeastern University to better prepare herself for teaching in a science and math-based school.

Being a teacher wasn't on Marcano's radar when she was growing up in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. Born in Trinidad, she has lived in Boston since she was six. She always knew she wanted to do something "where I was involved with therapy or counseling or psychology." As a child, she was raised in a household where education was a priority. Her mother was the first in her immediate family to go to college, and her grandmother worked with a political party and had gatherings and council meetings at her home in Trinidad. Success was expected, she says.

After attending Boston Latin School, which also boasts Leonard Bernstein, Benjamin Franklin, and Ralph Waldo Emerson among its alumni, she enrolled at Brandeis University. Marcano majored in Latin and African and Afro-American studies, graduating in 1996.

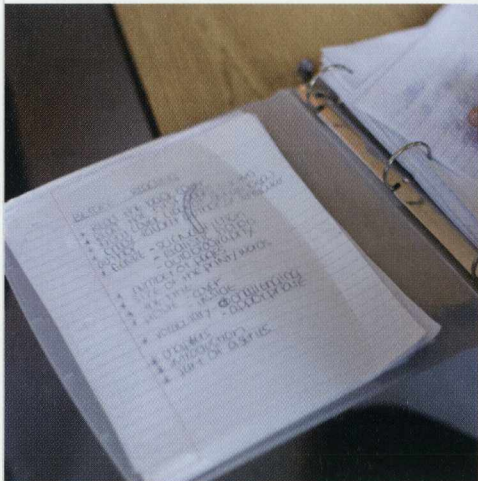
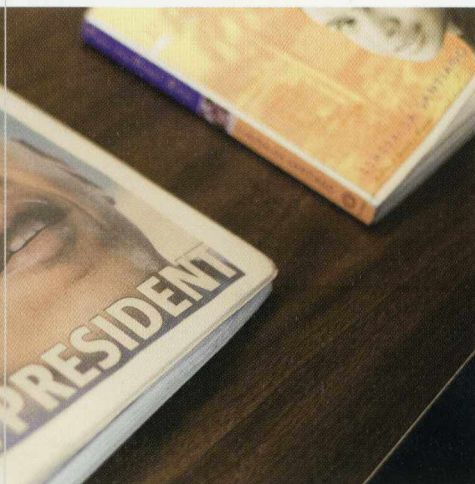
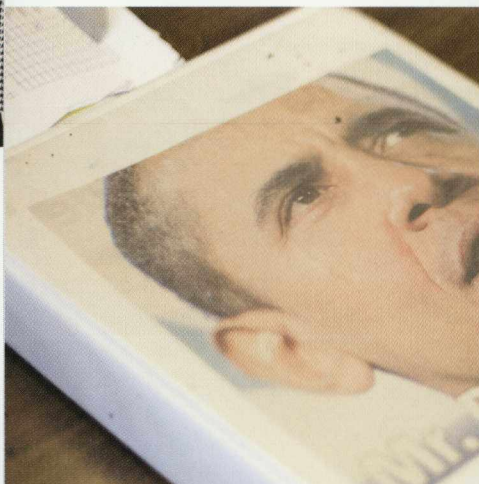
Shortly after graduating, Marcano got pregnant, later giving birth to her daughter, Khalia, now 11. To support her child, she worked as a development assistant for Physicians for Human Rights and as an executive assistant for the Bell Foundation that works to increase opportunities for children in low-income, urban communities. Yet she longed to work more directly with young people. When a friend convinced her to try a stint as a substitute teacher at the Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Marcano knew she'd found her calling.

"I loved the interaction with the students. It was at a time when there was a lot of talk about how some kids didn't want to learn. I saw these sassy girls and these fresh boys, and I loved them and wanted to teach them," she says. "I wanted to tell them, 'You can do better. You can have that hard-core edge and you can have that sassy look, but you can still use your brains.' I also have this big belief in perception and how you seem to others and how you see yourself. It's important that you put yourself out there the way you really feel yourself, and the way you want others to feel about you."

## "SHINING STAR"

In 1999, Marcano saw a flyer about Suffolk and decided to enroll in the University's educa-





tion and human services graduate program. It wasn't easy. She was already juggling two jobs and single parenthood, and she didn't have anyone to care for her daughter while she attended evening classes.

"My mother was working, [Khalia's] father was working, all of her godmothers lived out of state at the time," she says. "I didn't have a babysitter, so I took her with me."

Sarah M. Carroll, an associate professor of education and human services, recalls Marciano sitting in the back of her class with her then-2-year-old daughter.

"It was great," says Carroll, who is also director of Education Studies Programs at Suffolk. "Her daughter would just sit in the back and color while Darlene attended class."

What surprised Marciano most was how supportive fellow students and faculty were of her need to bring her child to school.

"They were so kind about having her in class. I'll never forget that experience," she says. "I thought there would be a lot of judgment there, but it was the convenience and the kindness of the school that will always stick with me."

Carroll says Marciano was "truly a shining star" who excelled in Carroll's class, Methods and Models of Teaching. "Maybe it was being a single mother that made her so focused and composed, but she knew what she wanted, she had the drive, and she had the compassion."

### "THE RIGHT COURSE"

That compassion is always abundant in Marciano. This year, she began hosting occasional informal lunches for the school's female students, who comprise less than a third of the school's enrollment. Snacking on Dunkin' Donuts Munchkins, about 13 girls attended a recent gathering, complaining about being the target of some of their male counterparts' verbal advances.

"This one boy shouted to me, 'Hey shorty!'" one girl says, referring to a slang term of endearment for an attractive female. "That's not even my name. Do I look like a shorty? I felt disrespected."

Several girls nod in agreement; most have been there before, and the names aren't always as well-intentioned. Attending these meet-

ings, one is reminded of the famous line from the Brad Pitt film *Fight Club*: "The first rule of Fight Club is you do not talk about Fight Club." What's said in these gatherings stays among the girls. And of course, there's no fighting here—just a safe place where these girls can talk about what's on their minds, without judgment and without boys.

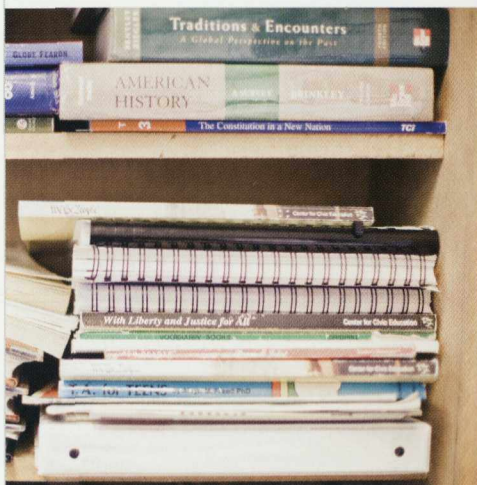
"I saw what the girls were feeling, and I said, 'Let's just meet. Let's just talk,'" Marciano says. "Last week, we had one of those all-out, let's-pour-everything-on-the-table sessions — 'Oh, the boys, they make me sick, I'm so glad we're here.' I just think it's so important for them to see that they do have each other."

At the same time, Marciano is just as sympathetic toward her male students.

"Sometimes, I don't know which group needs more encouragement," she says with a sigh. "With the boys, they have this whole macho, streetwise persona, so they can't really show that they're smart. In some cases, depending on the household, they may have to be that man of the house. They need a lot of confidence and support. Girls need a lot of talk around self-respect and self-esteem, especially with so many images that are damaging to them."

Marciano often sees herself in her students who, as 14-year-olds, are caught between the last gasp of childhood and the uncertainties of adulthood. And her connection with them goes even deeper: she grew up and still resides in Dorchester, where several of her students live,





as well. The fact that she's from the community resonates with her students.

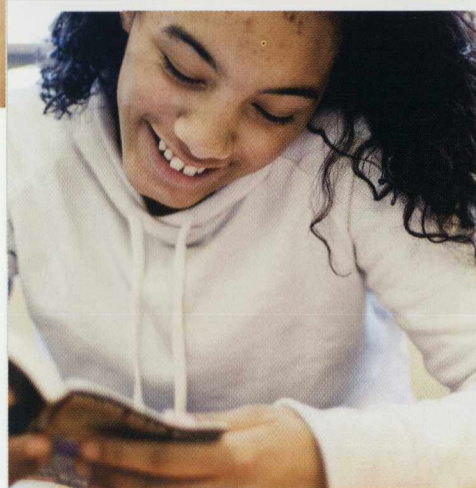
"She's a great teacher, actually," says Carlos Bryant, 14, who lives a few blocks from the high school. A bright, chatty young man, he entered Marciano's class this fall.

"For us, because of the way we think and the neighborhood we're from, she says things in a way we can understand," Bryant says. "She's from the community and she knows how to break it down to us."

It's a quality that The Engineering School's Abelard, who also grew up in a predominately black Boston neighborhood, values in Marciano, too.

"Students sometimes look at teachers as if we've come from a different background," he says. "But we're from right here, from the inner-city, and they see [that] if we can make it, they can, too."

Still, Marciano recognizes how different and difficult these times are for young people. She's a teacher, but she also understands that for some of her students, she may be the only sta-



ble, trustworthy adult in their lives. At the same time, she rejects the idea that inner-city parents tend to ignore their children's academic lives.

"I tend not to believe what people say about parents not caring. I just find that they're not sure how to put all the different pieces together—working with teachers and the administration, being able to access the material," Marciano says. "Some have these children at a very young age, so they're dealing with that kind of stress. And also being able to survive with a job—they

may have more than two jobs—and just being able to do all of it. One of the things that surprises me is the lack of understanding people have for parents, and the assumption that these parents don't care."

Still, she says, some of her students have already "seen too much. The stories they tell are heartbreaking." She mentions one student who sometimes comes to school only to get lunch, since that may be his one meal of the day.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm their counselor. I have to listen. I feel like they want to tell their story. I don't feel like I can fix them or fix their issues," Marciano says. "But I can, at least, offer whatever it is I can offer. And sometimes, it may just be that ear. It may just be pulling them in the direction of someone who can do more for them than I can."

Like many teachers, Marciano does experience frustration, especially when it comes to making education a priority in this country. From her perspective, discussions about education, including those during the recent presidential election, often seem to result in little action.

"I don't think the country is very proactive when it comes to education. If it was, the schools would be in better condition, the teachers would be better paid, there would be a higher graduation rate, and the students would be more interested in education. And that's just not happening."

Still, nearly every day something occurs that reinforces Marciano's commitment to her students, whether it's a struggling student who has a breakthrough or a vigorous discussion about the Boston Massacre.

As a mother, she always wants there to be someone in her daughter's classroom encouraging her to aim higher and do better. And at The Engineering School, Marciano wants to serve that purpose for her students.

"I know all of these kids here can go to college. I know they can all go on to greater things, and that's what keeps me here," she says. "What I get out of this is bringing up some more educated, community-oriented students that will hopefully want to see the generation after them do the same thing. We have to prosper and survive, and not in some of the ways I've seen us do it. There are so many things that can go wrong, and I just want to see them on the right course." ☺



# 1951



## Tap Off

Women's basketball had its debut at Suffolk with the 1951/52 team. Later in the '50s, the team disbanded, only to resume intercollegiate varsity competition in the 1980/1981 season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

## on campus in '51

- ➔ Suffolk Law receives American Bar Association accreditation
- ➔ Hollywood actress Joan Blondell crowns Miss Suffolk, Sandee Lydon
- ➔ Physics Department Professor Harvey Blend named executive director of the Boston Dance Theatre Association
- ➔ Suffolk is invited to join the Massachusetts Intercollegiate Student Legislature

## off campus in '51

- ➔ Notable films: *An American in Paris*, *A Place in the Sun*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- ➔ United Nations headquarters officially opens in New York
- ➔ Julius and Ethel Rosenberg sentenced to death for conspiracy to commit espionage
- ➔ *I Love Lucy* debuts
- ➔ J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* is published
- ➔ Price of first-class postage stamp: 3 cents
- ➔ The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, limiting presidents to two terms
- ➔ The New York Yankees' Joe DiMaggio retires



# ALUMNI news

## From Your Alumni Association

**ELLEN SOLOMITA**, Executive Director  
esolomit@suffolk.edu

**L**eadership can be described as the art of motivating a group of people towards the achievement of a common goal. This definition is illustrated perfectly by Suffolk's alumni presidents, who are leading their respective boards with passion and dedication on behalf of more than 60,000 alumni like you.

For this issue of *SAM*, Shawn Middleton '90 met with four extraordinarily talented alumni: University Alumni Council President Richard Sheff JD '81, Alumni Board Presidents, Hal Lebowitz JD '85 (Law), Lori Atkins BS '01, JD '04 (College), and Bill Popeleski MBA '87 (Business). Like all of our alumni vol-



unteers, these dedicated individuals are working to help ensure the University and its alumni continue to build the strongest Alumni Association.

As we recognize Richard, Hal, Lori, and Bill, we also celebrate the leadership that extends beyond our campus and the boards through the lives and work of ALL

of our outstanding alumni. The work of our alumni boards would be in vain if it were not for you. Working in your chosen field or leading by example with time, talent, and treasure in support of your University, you are agents for positive change both on and off campus.

Please know we are working harder than ever to connect our 60,000 alumni to the University and to each other. We continue to enhance our online community and career advisory network, and to increase networking opportunities. As always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions on what the Alumni Association can do for you

And now, it is my pleasure to introduce Richard, Hal, Lori, and Bill—the presidents of your Alumni Association.

### **SAM: What prompted you to volunteer at Suffolk?**

**RICHARD SCHEFF:** I was sitting at home thumbing through the alumni magazine and saw a notice calling for nominations for the Law School Alumni Board. I read a little bit about what the law board did and thought to myself, of all the places that helped me get where I am today, it was Suffolk that really meant the most to me. I had not been connected at all to the University for nearly 20 years and to reconnect was a defining moment for me. This opportunity was the way I could give back to Suffolk, and it's done a lot for me.

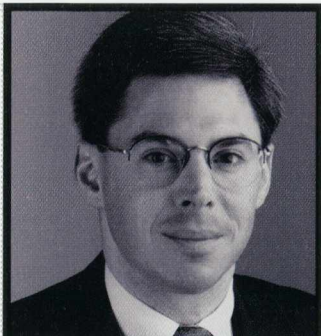
**HAL LEIBOWITZ:** Richard and I actually got involved with the Law School Alumni Board at the same time. We're both in our sixth year and like Richard, for me, it was a desire to give back. I feel I've been very fortunate to have found a career that's very fulfilling for me and I really owe that to my Suffolk education.

**LORI ATKINS:** I've been on the College of Arts & Sciences board for four years now and began right after I graduated from the Law School in 2004. I wanted to give back because I felt so privileged as to where I'd been, and where I am now, all due to Suffolk. I truly felt that the education I received from Suffolk, as well as the neces-

sary network of individuals that I was introduced to during my studies, gave me so much opportunity when I graduated.

**BILL POPELESKI:** I've had a relationship with Suffolk since I started graduate school in 1987, and it has continued to evolve and grow stronger over the last two decades. After leaving Suffolk, I settled in New York yet tried to stay involved as much as I could, but it was challenging. Over the last five to six years, I've become much more involved. What drew me back was a Suffolk-sponsored dinner in New York six years ago. The goal of the event was to reactivate the New York chapter.





HAL LEIBOWITZ JD '85



LORI ATKINS BS '01, JD '04



BILL POPELESKI MBA '87



RICHARD SCHEFF JD '81

**SAM:** Could you explain the roles of the University Alumni Council (UAC) and the three alumni boards?

**HAL:** The mission of the University Alumni Council is to continue to enhance the lifelong partnership between the University and its alumni for their mutual benefit by supporting and promoting the efforts of each of the alumni boards and encouraging alumni to commit their time and talents to the University. The individual boards implement the UAC mission through a number of different initiatives, such as activities at the chapters, alumni dinners and awards, assisting with the recruitment of new students to the applicable school, and job placements.

**RICHARD:** What I have come to learn is that it doesn't matter what school you came from. There are remarkably talented people who have gone places because of Suffolk. Suffolk has developed a really extensive alumni network that contributes on all fronts.

**BILL:** I totally agree. The boards exist to grow the alumni network, to get the University's message communicated, and tell them of all the great things that we're doing. I feel the boards act as that bridge between the University and alumni-at-large.

**SAM:** Who makes up your alumni board? How do you interact with the school and the University?

**RICHARD:** The sharing of information, missions, and best practices of the various boards are brought together by the University Alumni Council. We understand what's happening with issues being discussed and percolated through the process of each board, and we take on our own objectives, which need approval and ratification from the individual boards.

**HAL:** One of the most valuable things I found in my three years on the University Alumni Council is learning best practices from the other boards and bringing those practices, in my case, to the Law School board.

**LORI:** Looking at the makeup of our board, there are graduation years ranging from 1962 to 2005. I think that our board makes up an array of backgrounds that match our graduates, which is always helpful when trying to connect with the School.


**BILL:** There's a coordinated effort between the University and the board to share common goals and common objectives, and that's how we are driven and interact with the School. We're doing a lot; the board is very engaged

and active, and working closely in collaboration with its University counterparts.

**SAM:** What is your vision for your Board?

**RICHARD:** What we're likely to be doing in the future is discovering more ways to share information, as well as select issues within the University that the boards can take ownership of and make change. This vision is based around the idea that we're trying to continually expand the base of volunteers from the alumni to actively participate with the University.

**BILL:** I envision our board as being the bridge between the University and the general alumni. And that bridge goes both ways—getting the information from the University out to the alumni, as well as getting the feedback from the alumni back to the University. There needs to be a constant dialogue.

**LORI:** I absolutely agree. The College of Arts & Sciences Board is full of very engaged and active alumni, who want to make a very powerful impact on Suffolk University as well as to play a major role in the life of the University's community. Suffolk does an amazing job of enriching the students' lives while they're students. Our board hopes to develop specific education programs and initiatives to continue enriching these students' lives after they graduate. 





### SAM@work >



Relationship issues are at the core of most people's problems in life. **Carl Schneider '68, MEd '72** understands this and has spent much of his career helping his clients work as a team in their personal and professional relationships. His practice name, Collaborative Psychotherapy, reflects Schneider's emphasis on working together. He helps his clients see themselves as respect-worthy, strong partners. His investment in team-work is further demonstrated on a personal level. Schneider's partner in the practice? His wife, psychotherapist, Marcia Weiss.



### Keys to Respect-Worthy and Strong Relationships

Contact information for  
Carl Schneider, MEd at  
[collaborativepsychotherapy.com](http://collaborativepsychotherapy.com)

- 1 Relationship Success Doesn't Happen By Magic.** Develop these vital relationship skills: collaboration, communication, and empathy, in order to play a major role in the success of your team.
- 2 Self Awareness Nurtures Relationships.** Most people are aware of only half the picture—what their partner says and does. Awareness of how you come across to your partner will reduce fighting and build communication and good will.
- 3 Treat Your Partner at Least as Well as You Would Treat a Guest.** Employ consideration and negotiation and omit power and control battles. Practice making proposals about how to improve your lives together.
- 4 Spread the Love.** Let your partner know regularly and specifically what you appreciate about him or her. Good treatment from you will inspire more good treatment from your partner.
- 5 Learn to Make Up.** All couples fight. But if each of you practices making up, you'll feel safer talking over difficult issues. It's less important who is right or wrong. Look beyond finding fault; find solutions by joint problem solving.
- 6 Seek Help.** All couples hit rough patches sometimes. A professional therapist can teach you innovative ways to get along or get through particularly stressful times.



## Call your mater. {She misses you}.

The Alumni Association is a direct line for keeping in touch with your alma mater—and the rest of the Suffolk family. It costs nothing to join, but pays you back with instant access to your network of fellow alumni all over the world. Sign up for a permanent e-mail forwarding address, access the Online Community, hear about special events like Suffolk Celtics Night, and receive important news about Alumni Weekend 2009.

#### Stay connected to Suffolk.

Send your mailing address, e-mail, and phone to [SuffAlum@suffolk.edu](mailto:SuffAlum@suffolk.edu).

Or call us at (617) 573-8443. Or fax to (617) 573-8711.



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Career Advisory Network?**

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ENTER *the* ONLINE COMMUNITY 

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**All these benefits—and more—are just one click away! The best part? It's free to all Suffolk alumni and only takes a moment to register. Whether you've just graduated or are celebrating your 25th reunion, the Suffolk Online Community works for you.**

Share in Suffolk's strength by registering for your free account today via the Alumni Association website: [www.suffolk.edu/alumni](http://www.suffolk.edu/alumni)



## Leadership Weekend 2008

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader."*

—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

**O**ur nation's sixth president would have, no doubt, found plenty of leadership material at the Alumni Association's 5th Annual Leadership Conference, September 19-21.

Speaking of presidents, Suffolk's own kicked off the weekend with Leadership Dinner at the Suffolk Club, part of the Downtown Harvard Club. Addressing the gathering of alumni from the Law School, College, and Business School, President David Sargent JD '54 noted that "Our future has never looked brighter," adding that "of all of the wonderful blessings that this University has, none are as great, and none are as effective, as our 60,000-strong alumni scattered throughout the world. Without their leadership in positions on the Board of Trustees, Advisory Committees, and Alumni Boards, without their financial contributions, without their advice, counsel, and assistance in every way conceivable, we would never have reached this point."

Keynote speaker Goldie Blumenstyk, a senior writer for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, discussed "Today's Challenges in Higher Education."

On Saturday, alumni volunteers from across the country heard from members of the University's leadership, including a welcome by newly appointed Provost Barry Brown, while Assistant Vice President of Advancement Pamela Lomax moderated a conversation between academic Deans Fred Aman of the Law School, Ken Greenberg of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Bill O'Neill of the Business School. Vice President of Enrollment Marguerite Dennis and Gail Ellis, dean of law school admission, provided an update on the admissions process and highlights of this year's entering classes, while John Nucci, vice president for external affairs, and Greg Gatlin, director of public affairs, presented "Suffolk on the Move and in the News." Keynote luncheon speaker Jeffrey Zaslow, columnist for the *Wall Street Journal*, and co-

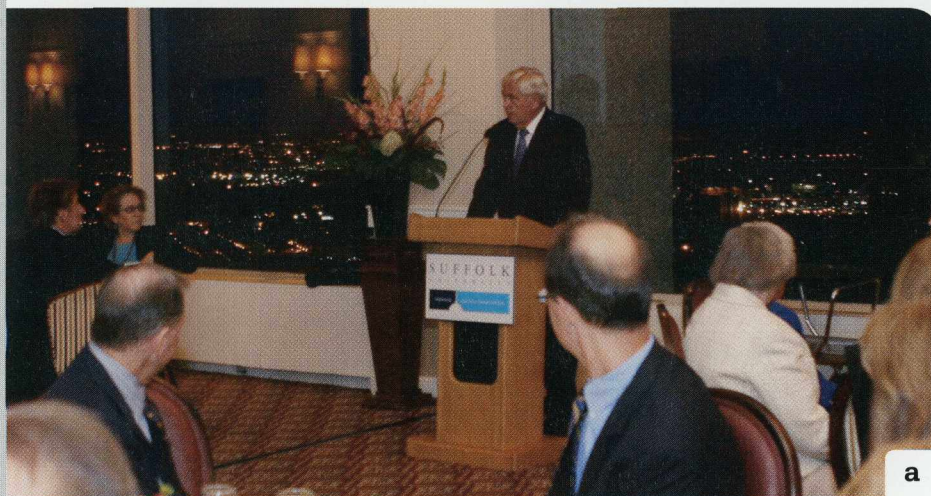
author of the current international bestseller *The Last Lecture*, inspired attendees with his presentation, "What is your Legacy?"

The weekend concluded with the 10th Annual Suffolk Road Race & Family Walk. This year, over 300 alumni, students, and friends participated. All proceeds benefit the Alumni Leadership Scholarship Fund.

Anyone looking for inspiring leadership found it (and then some) this particular weekend at Suffolk.



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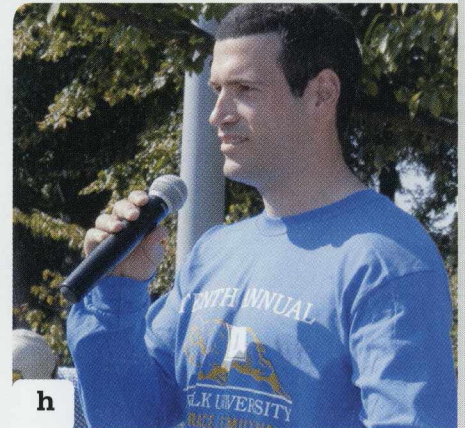
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**a** > President Sargent addresses alumni at the Leadership Dinner

**b** > Paul Nevins '66, JD '82, poses a question during the Q&A at the Leadership Dinner

**c** > Richard Scheff JD '81, president of the UAC and Goldie Blumenstyk, Senior Writer, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*

**d** > Alumni volunteers attending a session at the Leadership Conference

**e** > Suffolk's academic deans provided updates on their respective schools

**f** > Richard Scheff JD '81 (right), presents the "Alumni Cup" to the College Alumni Board and President Lori Atkins '01, JD '04 and the Law School Alumni Board and President Hal Leibowitz JD '85

**g** > Kristyn O'Brien BA '03 with Jeffrey Zaslow, co-author of *The Last Lecture*

**h** > Adam Pellerin BS '02, of FOX25, served as the official race starter

**i** > Nearly 300 members of the Suffolk Community participated in the annual Road Race and Family Walk



i





## Alumni Association Events

Political junkies got an election preview at a Government Alumni Networking Reception. Design aficionados congregated at the NESADSU Annual Reception. With well over a dozen events this season, your Alumni Association had something special for every interest.



### Central Mass. Networking Event

Dick Duchesneau '68 and Allan Chapman '62 (above); Nievel Williams '07 and guest, Acel Silva (above right)



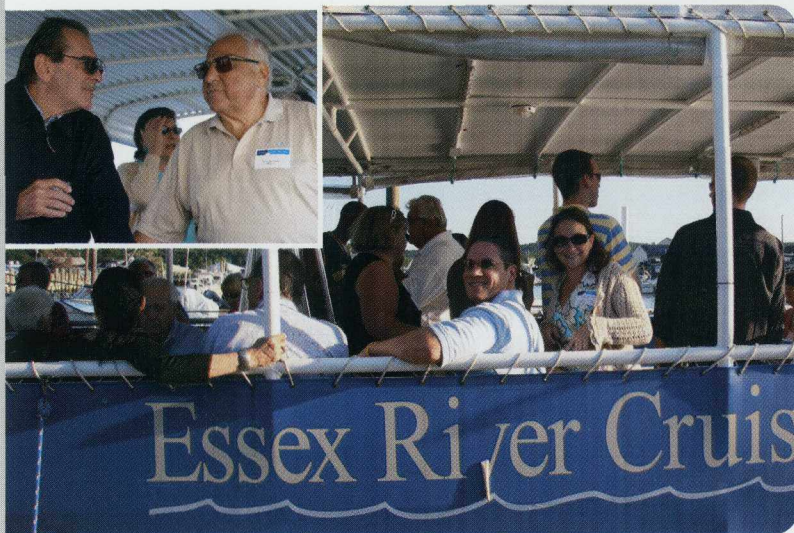
**Tanglewood** Alumni enjoy the view at a reception following the performance

### Government Alumni Networking Reception

Suffolk University Political Research Center Director David Paleologos, Professor Rachael Cobb, Professor Judy Dushku, Greg Pappas '80



**Wedded Bliss** Collaborative exhibition participants John and Cile Burbidge '48 with Peabody Essex Museum tour guide

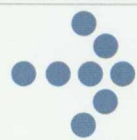


**Annual Essex River Cruise** Alumni get ready to set sail; (inset) Professor Alberto Zanzi and George Lerra '57

**NESADSU Annual Reception** honoring Marg Dion '73, '03, pictured center with former NESAD faculty member Glenda Wilcox (l) and Jane Hassan BFA '03.







# Advancing Suffolk



One of the most significant contributions this country has made to social change is the democratization of higher education. It is a lasting gift of this nation to the world. In that process, no institution has been more prominent than Suffolk University.

For more than 30 years as a Suffolk professor, I have had the privilege of witnessing the transformative benefits of higher education as our students—through tireless effort matched with intellectual excellence and creativity—have achieved success. Each of them has enriched my life as a teacher and a colleague.

Now I have the honor of writing to you as the new provost of the University.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the University. At the same time, I am aware of the responsibility that I have toward our students, faculty, and administrators—and to each of you, our alumni. In the coming months, I will be working with members of the University community to advance our academic agenda while communicating our history and culture to every one of our students.

I look forward to getting to know as many of you as I can. An important part of my role as Provost is listening to your thoughts and suggestions. The University is growing at a dramatic pace, with new programs, new buildings, and a new national and international prominence. As our student body approaches ten thousand and we assume a greater educational role here and abroad, we strive to fulfill our Campaign promise to each of you, every day.

In the midst of this growth, please know how important each alumnus and alumna is to maintaining our tradition of excellence in teaching and scholarship. Your support drives bold educational initiatives, builds infrastructure, and

creates opportunities for students and faculty alike. I hope you will join me in making sure that we can continue to provide the economic opportunity and the intellectual environment for each new generation of students at Suffolk.

By working together, we can have a lasting impact on Suffolk. As a donor to the University, you have an immediate stake in both the educational mission that has made this institution known worldwide and in the life of each student who studies here. Please help Suffolk maintain its place as a diverse and stimulating university that embraces students from all economic backgrounds.

Your support is crucial at this moment in the history of your university. I ask you to help me make the changes that will ensure the promise of our continued success.

My best wishes to each of you for a happy holiday season and New Year.

Very truly yours,

**BARRY BROWN**

PROVOST

## A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, A ROSTER OF HONOR

**THE POWER TO CHANGE:** *The Campaign for Suffolk University* is a historic effort to raise funding critical for initiatives in the 21st century. Thank you to the nearly 5,000 alumni and friends who contributed over \$7.3 million in 2007-2008 towards this ambitious vision for Suffolk. Your generosity and leadership has been as remarkable as your achievements in law, business, and the arts and sciences. To view a list of the 2007-2008 donors, please visit:

**[www.suffolk.edu/giving/honorroll](http://www.suffolk.edu/giving/honorroll)**

To learn about THE POWER TO CHANGE or to make a contribution, call (617) 573-8443 or visit [www.suffolk.edu/giving](http://www.suffolk.edu/giving).

*The Campaign for SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY*

*The Power to Change*



President David Sargent JD '54 with John LaPre and his son, scholarship recipient Eric LaPre.



## Delivering Dividends

Senior scholar Eric LaPre makes a benefactor's investment pay off

BY KATE SILVER

**A**FTER WORKING to fulfill the hopes and dreams held by family and teachers throughout his education, this year Suffolk senior Eric LaPre strived to meet the expectations of a complete stranger. Between two work-study jobs and a full course-load, LaPre is used to a challenge. But pressure took on a new meaning when, thanks to his exceptional academic performance, the English major was awarded the Dr. Stanley M. Vogel Scholarship. Inspired by that honor, he says, he has a reputation to uphold.

"Helping students out financially really motivates them to work hard," says LaPre. "Here

are these people giving you money, investing in you solely on your academic merit, and you want to live up to their expectations. You want to validate their investment by performing well in the classroom, and on campus in general."

LaPre is just one of thousands of students across all of the schools at Suffolk receiving financial aid for tuition (\$25,850 for undergraduate degrees, \$38,070 for day Law students). With the rising cost of tuition, the debt incurred following graduation is growing. A majority of students at Suffolk (and more than half of students nationally) receive aid.


Of course, those numbers could all change in the near future; with the state of the economy, available funds are expected to get increasingly tighter.

The prospects are worrisome for students like LaPre. His life would be even more complicated if not for the scholarship, which was established by Mel Sudalter '68 and other alumni. Sudalter wanted to enable Suffolk students to focus on their class work—an opportunity he didn't always have. He attended college with the help of the G.I. Bill, but he still needed to hold a full-time job to support himself. "I wished that I could have devoted all my time to study," he says. "So I promised that I'd help support future students financially."

Sudalter fulfilled that promise, and for that, LaPre is grateful. Throughout his college years, he has strived to help his single father pay for his tuition by taking on different jobs. This year, he works as a research assistant for a professor in the English department, in addition to holding a post at Suffolk's writing center, helping other students edit their class papers. The scholarship takes some of the pressure off LaPre and his father.

"My dad has been footing the bills for all of my years of college, and this year it's significantly easier on him. Now we can move money around to other things, like books, paying rent, buying groceries," he says.

Earlier this year, LaPre was given a chance to thank his benefactor in person at the Annual Scholarship Dinner. During the dinner, Sudalter told LaPre all about Stanley M. Vogel, a veteran English professor and the namesake of the scholarship. "He seemed like such an interesting professor who I would get along with and learn a lot from," says LaPre. Later, LaPre took the podium and discussed the challenges of college life as Sudalter sat in the crowd, proudly looking on.

"It was a great experience," says LaPre. In fact, the experience resonated with him so much that he has decided that once he's financially able, he'd also like to create a scholarship at Suffolk, based on academic merit. And he's already begun thinking about the professor for whom the fund will be named. 



# Honoring Suffolk Scholars and their Benefactors

The Annual Scholarship Dinners (Law on October 21 and CAS/SBS on October 29) celebrated the extraordinary achievement of recipients and generosity of donors



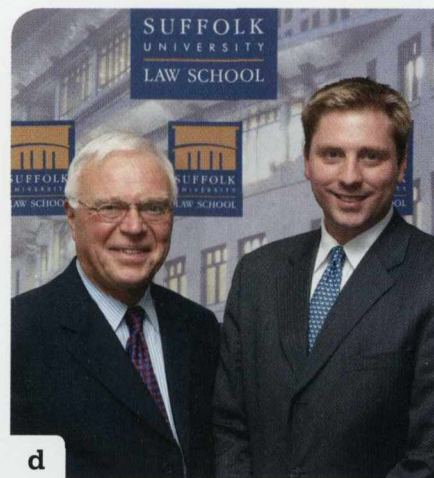
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**a > CAS/SBS** Dean William J. O'Neill Centennial Scholarship benefactor, Dean William J. O'Neill, Jr. JD '74, and Angelo N. Scangas, DCS '93 Entrepreneurial Scholarship benefactor, Pamela Scangas '72

**b > CAS/SBS** Nathan R. Miller Boston Scholars, Deenesha Lipscomb '12 and Mieauna-Kiye Douglas '12

**c > CAS/SBS** George Nelson Torrey Scholarship benefactor, Dr. George N. Torrey, '56, MAE '57 and Elizabeth Jesus '05

**d > LAW** Law School Dean Fred Aman with student speaker and George Goldstein Memorial Scholarship recipient, Charles Anderson, JD '09

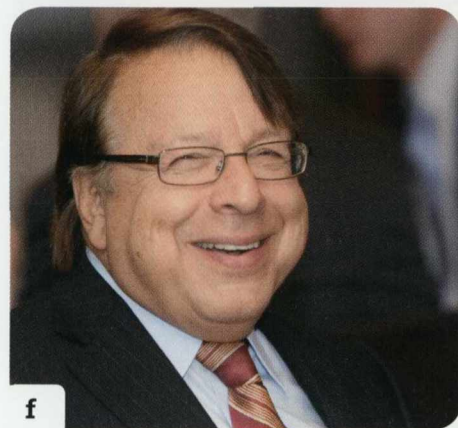
**e > LAW** Jeanne M. and Marguerite Hession Scholarship recipient, Timothy DeMarco, JD '12 and benefactors Marguerite Hession and Trustee Jeanne Hession, LLB '56, DJS '74 with Gerard F. and Marilyn Doherty Centennial Scholarship benefactor, Trustee Gerard Doherty, JD '60

**f > LAW** Lewis A. Sassoon Scholarship and Class of 1969 Scholarship benefactor, Lewis A. Sassoon, JD '69

**g > LAW** Diane Schoenfeld, Director of Law Alumni Relations with The Hon. Lawrence L. and Barbara G. Cameron Scholarship recipient, Prudence Kantengwa, JD '09



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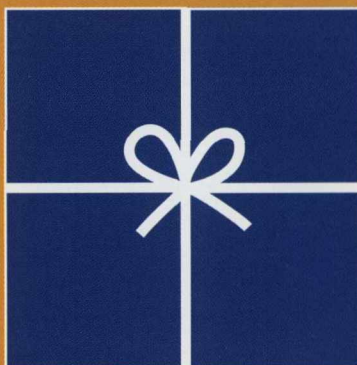
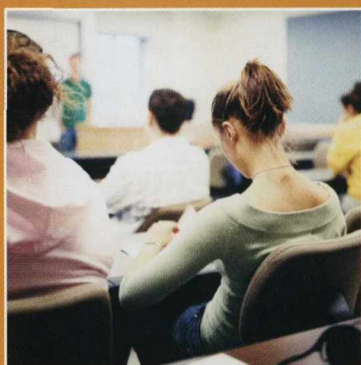
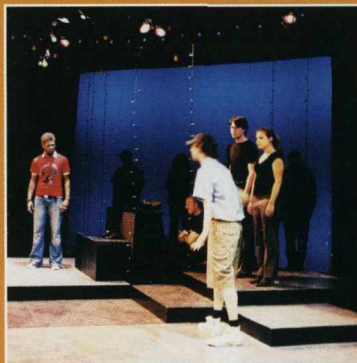


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## Brother's Keeper

Discovering her twin's school ties gave Margaret Rossiter a way to honor his legacy **BY RACHEL ROESLER**

**W**hen Charles Rossiter '69, MBA '70 died in January 2004 of complications from diabetes, his twin sister Margaret was left with the task of settling his affairs. While cleaning out her brother's home in Stamford, Connecticut, she came across a box of memorabilia from his days at Suffolk. "He had his yearbooks and other items along with a book about the history of Suffolk. He clearly loved his time there," says Margaret.

Charles didn't leave a will, so Margaret had to decide how best to honor her brother's memory. Looking back on his life, Margaret recalled the positive influence of her brother's professors,

who were instrumental in shaping his future. "He once took an art history class, and years later we were traveling in Europe and he was telling me all about the Baroque period. He really did have some great professors that made a difference in his life," says Margaret.

To pay tribute to her brother—and recognize how much Suffolk meant to him—Margaret decided to create the Charles A. Rossiter Jr. Scholarship. Her \$100,000 contribution will ensure that other students from Melrose, Massachusetts, where she and Charles grew up, will benefit from a Suffolk education just as her brother did.

Throughout his long career as a revenue agent

with the Internal Revenue Service, Charles was known for his honesty and integrity. Margaret recalls an incident early in his career when he was offered a bribe. "Charles showed the guy to the door and sent him off to a supervisor. Soon everyone knew he meant business," she says.

As an auditor of small businesses, Charles often depended on the sage advice of his favorite professor from Suffolk to help him navigate the complexities of his job. "He was always talking about what Professor Corman thought about things," says Margaret, recalling her brother's fondness for Dr. Joel Corman, now retired and living in Sedona, Arizona, after a 30-year career at Suffolk. "Professor Corman became a household name. Charles just loved him."

Margaret credits Corman with putting her brother back on the path toward completing his undergraduate degree. He attended Holy Cross but never finished, instead working in a variety of unfulfilling jobs. "Charles quickly realized that if he wanted to move on with his life, he needed a college degree," she recalls. "Suffolk University gave him a second chance."

Charles enrolled as an undergrad in the late 1960s and began taking business classes with Corman. "He really buckled down then. He was learning so much." Charles excelled at Suffolk, graduating cum laude with a BA in business. Margaret recalls Charles telling their parents he planned to pursue an MBA. "Of course, he didn't look any further than Suffolk," she says.

While working on his MBA, Charles became Corman's graduate assistant. Although Corman had thousands of students pass through his classroom door over the years, he remembers Rossiter well. "Charlie was with me in the beginning, always willing to dig right in and help," he said. "You have no idea how gratifying it is to make an impact like that."

Margaret Rossiter wants her brother's legacy to have an impact, too. "Hopefully, this scholarship will allow others to have the same experience Charles did," she says. "He'd want others to be exposed to the great opportunities and wonderful faculty he found at Suffolk." ☺





# ClassNotes

## UNDERGRADUATE

### 1943

**Helene (Friedman) Margolskee (Graphic Design)** presented an exhibition of her copperplate etchings "showing portraits from a distant era" at the Pierce Gallery at Cary Memorial Library in Lexington, MA. The show, *A Yiddish World Remembered*, opened on September 4.



### 1958

**Ralph Bush (Graphic Design)**, along with two fellow artists, has established the William Maloney/Don Stone/Ralph Bush Fresh Paint Scholarship, in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Copley Society's Fresh Paint exhibition. Fresh Paint is the Society's primary annual fundraiser. This year, 90 artists fanned out over the city, producing works based on some of Boston's most treasured sights. After a week on display, the paintings were auctioned at a gala event held on May 10.

### 1962

**Alan Chapman (BS)** was elected to a three-year term on the CAS Alumni Board of Directors. Alan retired in 2007 after more than 40 years in marketing and public relations, and he now teaches marketing at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. He also serves on the executive board of Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame and is co-executive producer of *Radio Classics Live!* at the Buckley Performing Arts Center in Brockton, an annual stage tribute to radio that Alan co-founded in 1990.

### 1964

"After graduating from NESAD...I worked for a brief period on Morrissey Boulevard for a newspaper, then moved to Providence (RI) designing labels for prestigious companies such as Tiffany, Cartier, Chivas Regal, etc.," writes **Paul Eddy (Advertising Design)**. "Anything printed on foil. I became very proficient with an airbrush. The next stop was a company in Attleboro (MA), called the Robbins Company, where I was art director for 32 years, designing awards for big-name companies (Avon, Tiffany, NASA). Did quite a bit of traveling for the company to design 'on the spot.' Had a lot of fun, met a lot of great people, was friends with an astronaut who walked on the moon, Charles Duke. I have three grown children [and am a] grandfather four times. Still working [for E.A. Dion Company in Attleboro] but getting back into watercolor."

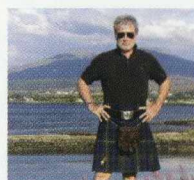
### 1968

"My, hasn't NESAD come a long way," writes **Barbara Fredrick (Advertising Design)**, after viewing the last issues of the NESAD newsletter, & *Then*, on the University's website. "After graduating from NESAD I worked as an ad layout per-

son for Haywood Advertising in Newton, I was married and had three children. Left the work environment to raise the kids and moved to Phoenix in 1978. Still paint (not as much as I'd like to) and am a member of the Phoenix Museum of Fine Arts. So, for thirty-odd years I've kept busy. Now have seven grandchildren, one of whom is very talented in fine arts. One of my fondest memories was spending so much time at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, whether for an assignment or for leisure."

### 1969

For the past eight years, **Jim Clyde (BA)** worked in sales for The Pressroom printers in Gloucester, MA, where he has been doing printing projects for Suffolk. "I do keep in touch with classmate Bernie Carragher, who has been living in NYC for the past 30 years," he writes, "and makes the best Manhattans on the planet! This summer spent two weeks in Scotland on a tour of the entire country. As one can probably tell from the photo, I have Scottish roots and enjoy my Scottish heritage! Would love to hear from any other members of the class of '69!"



### 1970

**Samuel Pizzi, PhD (BA)** writes, "I am now semi-retired, which means working harder than ever. I teach at Argosy University/Sarasota, see clients in Venice, FL, and Springfield, MA. I also have a small studio where I do metal sculpting. Alberta,

my wife of 38 years, and I frequently travel, mostly to Italy, and hope to spend a month or two per year in Italy in the future. Both of my daughters live here in Venice, FL, as does my younger brother. I miss Suffolk University."

**Edward ("Mitch") Mitchell (Graphic Design)** has parlayed his years of experience in the printing business into Mitchell Printing & Graphic Service, working from home in East Orleans, MA.

### 1978

"I feel that this is a face that you could comfortably buy a used car from," writes **Barbara Shayeb-Helou (nee Shayeb-Daoud) (BA)** about this photo of her new grandson, Peter Shayeb Bouharoun, who was born on July 12. "He has looks, charm, and intelligence. Women love his thick and long hair. I am having the time of my life taking care of him. His mother (my daughter) is a national senior vice president with a major bank and has to travel at least monthly. So Shay and I have a lot of bonding time. His sister passed away two years ago with a heart defect so this a very special young man. After a career as a nonprofit fundraiser and organizer in Florida, I am now in South Carolina with my daughter and son-in-law (and Shay). As a past Rotary International district governor, I stay involved with Rotary charity and humanitarian work worldwide. It is exhilarating! My Rotary International experience gave and still gives me a great deal of opportunity to use my public speaking skills, which were developed with the Walter Bursery Debate Team. Thank you, Suffolk!"



### 1983

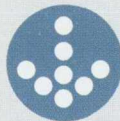
**Carole (Kassir) Garcia (Interior Design)** is now a senior associate at Collins Woerman, a Seattle-based architectural firm specializing in commercial, healthcare, science and technology, mixed-use residential, and planning projects.

### 1986

**Sean Morrissey (BS)** recently founded Morrissey & Associates LLC, Beacon Hill's newest public policy management firm. Through individual and collaborative efforts, M&A offers strategic counsel and lobbying services to a wide array of Fortune 500 companies with business interests in the Commonwealth. Prior to founding M&A, Sean served as vice president in the Boston office of Dutko Worldwide Inc., a leading Washington, DC-based public affairs and lobbying firm. While at Dutko, Sean was responsible for servicing the firm's existing national clients and generating business development opportunities at the local, state, and federal level.



## Stay Connected



You can reach your classmates on the following pages through the Suffolk University Alumni Association Online Community.



If you are not currently a member, please email [SuffAlum@Suffolk.edu](mailto:SuffAlum@Suffolk.edu) for a user i.d. and password.

Registration is free and the easiest way to stay in touch with Suffolk University's 60,000 graduates worldwide. (Due to privacy concerns, we are unable to print or provide individual contact information.)



**Jon-Peter Smith (Graphic Design)** is currently the studio/art director for ISM Travel and Leisure Marketing in Boston. JP and his wife, Melissa, live in Quincy with their 2-year-old daughter, Zoey.

## 1988

**Nita Naik (Graphic Design)** and **Marisol Penaloza (Graphic Design)** got together in Boston in August for a mini-reunion. They hadn't seen each other since graduation. Nita lives in Westwood with her husband, Murad, and their two children, Aliya (16) and Afraz (10). Marisol, who now lives in Peru, was here with her parents. She has two children and does freelance design work in Lima, while assisting her father in his medical practice.

## 1990

**Jeanne (Reilly) Finnerty (Interior Design)** and her husband, Bill, an architect, together make up Finnerty Design in Charlestown. Their newly renovated design studio shares space in a factory building that also houses the Artists Group of Charlestown and the StoveFactory Gallery. Jeanne and Bill have recently collaborated on two projects: a 21,000-square-foot renovation at Harvard Mills in Wakefield for the Board of Registration in Medicine; and an adaptive reuse and residential conversion for the hospitality house and alumni offices for Belmont Hill School in Belmont, MA.



## 1992

**Robin (Pawlak) Garstka (Graphic Design)** was directed to Kitchen Views in Mansfield for design help, only to run into **Bonnie (Andrews) Johnson (Interior Design 1994)**, who is a kitchen designer there. Small world! On top of finishing a new house and "running around after two energetic young boys," Robin has her own graphic design firm, specializing in Web and corporate design and direct mail. Bonnie is now working for Kitchen Views in New Bedford, "...more on the outside sales end. I work mostly with contractors and still do residential kitchens...but also do large-scale commercial jobs like condos. I have been working in the kitchen business since I went to NESAD! I worked in the kitchen showroom across the street from the school, Allmilmö. They also had a showroom in Providence where I worked, as it was closer to home. I have been hooked ever since! Interior designers are few and far between in the kitchen design business and are in demand! I am now a third-degree black belt. I have stopped training and teaching karate, but I still teach kickboxing and self-defense to young girls. I now have three beautiful, great kids: Brienne (12), Julia (10), and Preston (7). Working, teaching, and driving the kids to all their after-school sports has me so busy, there isn't much time for anything else!"

## 1995

**Jean (Lynch) St. George (BS)** is on the board of directors for her children's school, Little Voices Early Care and Education in Hyde Park, MA.

**Christina M. Walsh (BA)** recently accepted the position of Project Assistant at Perceptive Informatics, a subsidiary of contract-research giant PAREXEL, which is headquartered in Waltham, MA.

## 1997

**Raquel Gomez Aranda (Interior Design)** moved back to Spain after graduation, completing a post-graduate program in interior design and working for two years in an interior design firm in Madrid. At that point, she decided to go off in another direction, so she returned to her family's travel and tourism business. She has been there ever since, though she's continued with freelance interior design work as well. Now she's ready for another change, perhaps to art therapy, so she is looking at graduate programs. Raquel was married in June 2007.



**Thad Parmenter (Graphic Design)** has joined **Larry Kwong (Graphic Design 2004)** at Cool Gear International Inc. in Plymouth. Cool Gear designs and develops a colorful and innovative line of entertainment products, storage containers, and freezer bottles.

## 1999

**Dave Faucher (Graphic Design)** is currently a senior interactive designer for the Bose Corporation in Stow, MA, in their online communications group. Previously, he worked at Palley Advertising (with **Lianne [Cortese] Stoddard [Graphic Design 1992]**, who has since moved on to the Boston Museum of Science). Since accepting the job at Bose, Dave's initial task was to redesign the shop online experience for bose.com. He is also responsible for brainstorming and developing concepts for new product platform launches.

## 2000

After living and working in Bogota, Colombia, for the past five years, **Valerie Van Ginhoven (Graphic Design)** has returned to Peru and has opened a graphic design firm, in partnership with a former coworker. Called Schienza, the firm specializes in package and corporate design and "is doing really well."



## 2001

On July 20, Gerrit Kelly of Cathedral City, CA, proposed to **Brandy Barney (BA)** of Bristol, NH, at Cape Lookout State Park in Oregon, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Brandy, daughter of Gary Barney of Alexandria and Norma Barney of Bristol, is a 1997 graduate of Newfound Regional High School. Son of Bruce and Deborah Kelly of Indio, CA, Gerrit is owner of GMK Web Solutions and Web Studios. The couple currently reside in Beaverton, OR.



**Amanda Ennis (Fine Arts)** started her travels in February in Thailand. "In the two months I was there, I got my advanced SCUBA diving certification, traveled all over the country, and did a 10-day silent Buddhist meditation retreat," she writes, "then to Malaysia for two months, did some more diving in Sipadan, where Jacques Cousteau did documentaries. Spent a few days in Singapore and then went to Cambodia for a couple of weeks to visit Angkor Wat and other cultural sites, and visited an orphanage. From there I went to Turkey, where a high school friend of mine is an archeologist in Istanbul. I spent five weeks there. Egypt was next. Five weeks in total there, three of which were spent on the Sinai Peninsula diving in the Red Sea. There I got AIDA certification for freediving, which is breath-hold diving to depth."



## 2002

**Jennifer Mckenney (BA)** passed the February Massachusetts Bar Exam and was admitted to the Bar on June 23 at the swearing-in ceremony at Faneuil Hall. Jennifer is currently an associate attorney at Edhelit & Associates in Braintree.

**John N. Pritchard Jr. (BS)** married Morgan Hood of Newburyport on September 18. John is an editor at *Dartmouth Journal Services*, and Morgan works in the business development department of Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. The couple reside in Burlington, VT.

## 2003

**Lauren Moschella (Interior Design)** has relocated to Chicago, where she is a senior designer for Koehler.

## 2004

**Victoria Masters (Graphic Design)** had a piece of her work in the Global Volunteer Network (GVN) Breaking Free from Poverty exhibition in London in September and October. Showing for two weeks at Richmond, the American International University in Kensington, Vic's photo is part of GVN's mission of bringing public awareness to the issue of child poverty.



**Kate McLean (Graphic Design)** got together with **Victoria Masters (Graphic Design 2004)** and **Deanna Hamel (Graphic Design 2003)** in New York recently and sent along this photo as proof. "[We] met in New York in July," Kate writes. "Kate and Vic rode the Cyclone on Coney Island and swapped tales of working freelance on either side of the Atlantic. Vic now works for The Sak as a designer, with a little photography on the side, and Kate is still freelancing in Manchester and Paris with more work coming in as a photographer. Deanna





joined the party in Manhattan in St. Mark's Place for cocktails at a tucked-away speakeasy bar."

**Brian Reardon (Graphic Design)** has left Cool Gear International Inc. and is now at Pearson Education in Boston in the math department. **Michelle Reyes (Graphic Design 2003)** sits a few cubicles down.

## 2005

**Keith Austin (Graphic Design)** started a new job in the spring at KPC Design, a Boston-based museum installation company, where he is a junior graphic designer. In addition, he is enrolled in the master's in architecture program at the Boston Architectural College (formerly the Boston Architectural Center), completing his first semester in May.

**Jessica Schlieben (Fine Arts)** is working as an administrative assistant at ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge, where **Colleen Barrett (Interior Design 2006)** is also employed as an interior designer. Jessica is enrolled in the master's program in interior design at the Boston Architectural College. She has just completed her second year and anticipates graduating in 2011. "It's been going great so far!" she says.

## 2006

**Marissa Borst (Interior Design)** has left the Washington, DC firm of Boeckl Gates to work at Architecture + Design Associates Inc. in Fairfax, VA. There she's doing construction documents, permitting, space planning, 3-D perspectives, and finish selection for office, hospitality, and assisted-living projects. Marissa also had a daughter, named Eve Jackson, on March 9.



**Nicole Dunville (BS)** recently got engaged to Andrew Burgess and is planning a 2010 wedding.

## 2007

**Jennifer Barrington (Interior Design)** has relocated to the West Coast and is working for Levitch Associates in Berkeley, CA. Levitch is an architectural and general contracting firm specializing in residential and commercial remodeling, kitchen and bath design, and new construction.

**Danielle DiRuzza (Graphic Design)** is an account coordinator and designer for Harger, Howe & Walsh, an advertising and communications agency in Burlington, VT.

During the month of August, **Bob Finneran (Graphic Design)** had a show of his artwork, called Impressions in Nature, at Perks Coffee House in Norwood.

**Morgan Gewandter (Interior Design)** has relocated to the New York City area, where she works for the firm High-

land Associates in Manhattan and lives in Brooklyn. At Highland, she has been doing design work for New York City's Department of Transportation, Bloomingdale's, Macy's, and numerous office spaces. This summer she worked on renovations for the immigration station on Ellis Island, as well as the hallways and lobby "for a gorgeous high-rise condo complex on the Upper East Side. All in all, it's been an amazing year since I started in August," she says.

**Dmitry Mangeym (Graphic Design)** has joined the group of NESADSU alums now at Pearson Education in Boston's Copley Square.

In addition to completing illustrations for the NESADSU viewbook and its new companion piece, the undergraduate viewbook "teaser," **Daniela Wong-Chiulli (Graphic Design)** has been working as a freelance illustrator, through NESAD alumnus **Scott Hill (General Art 1979)** of Hillstrate LLC, in the Atlanta area. With Scott, Daniela has produced work for Hasbro Toys and other clients, several commercial animations, and comic books for the Elastika line of shoes for Sketchers Inc.



**Heather Woods (BA)** writes, "I left my position as a legal consultant at Workplace Options, a global work-life benefits company located in Raleigh, NC, and I am currently a candidate for my master's degree in ethics and public policy at Suffolk University."

**Meaghan Wren (Interior Design)** has moved to New York City, where she is an associate in the architecture and interior design firm Meyer Davis Studio.

## 2008

**Ben Berte (Graphic Design)** has left Smart Destinations in Boston, where he did an internship as a senior, and has taken a position as a graphic designer for Sullivan & Worcester LLP, a Boston law firm.

**Lauren Bevilacqua (Graphic Design)** is a junior designer in John Hancock's brand communications/creative services department.

**Brielle Collins (Interior Design)** has relocated to the Chicago area and is working at Judy Gordon Interior Design, a high-end residential firm in Northbrook, IL.

**Michael Farley (Fine Arts)** recently wrote that he has moved back to Maine and opened a one-person show of his work at Rougette Gallery in Rockland on September 17. A native of Cushing, ME, Mike "paints organic plants and



creatures born from his imagination on intricately and carefully cut paper."

**Amanda Hark (Interior Design)** has left her school and work days at NESADSU behind and joined two firms, both in Boston: Barnum & Company, a residential interior design firm that also does some commercial and retail work, and Meichi Peng Design Studio, designers of hand-stitched luxury handbags.

**Leilani Irvine (Interior Design)** has returned to Nantucket, where she is presently working at The Emporium of Nantucket, a furniture/antiques/gift shop on the island.

**Alison Jette (Interior Design)** has taken a job with Webster & Company in the Boston Design Center. The Webster & Company showroom features furniture, fabrics, wall coverings, lighting fixtures, decorative accessories, and antiques.

**Wai Sum ("Wilson") Lau (Graphic Design)** is working as a Web designer at Episcopal Boston Chinese Ministry on Tremont Street.

**Haley McLane (Interior Design)** has landed a position with McDougal Architects in Boston, where **Jane (Johnson) Hassan (Interior Design 1990)** also works.

**Saul Mendoza (Graphic Design)** has left Boston and moved to the New York area, where he is working for Parsons The New School for Design as assistant director of curricular projects in the School of Constructed Environments. Saul's job involves overseeing the school's digital environment, oversight and maintenance of the website, assisting with public events, developing and creating design materials for publication, announcements, events, and exhibitions. He writes, "I plan on continuing my education at Parsons. I'm not quite sure what I plan on studying since there's so much to choose from. I can say that my education and experience at the New England School of Art & Design has opened many doors and prepared me to be an innovative, thinking, sophisticated designer."

**Sam Mullins (Graphic Design)** is working as a freelance graphic designer at Mullen Advertising in Wenham, MA, where **Dave Onessimo (Graphic Design 2004)** is a digital imaging artist.

**Justine Sammartino (Graphic Design)** is a graphic designer for the Vermont Lake Monsters, the Single-A affiliate of the Washington Nationals baseball team, in Burlington, VT.

**Corrin Thompson (Interior Design)** is working at Connor Architecture in Arlington, MA.

**Alina Wolhardt (Interior Design)** has taken a job with Duncan Hughes Interiors, a residential and commercial design firm in Boston.



## GRADUATE

### 1978

"Can you believe it?" writes **Robert Taylor (MBA)**. "Married again and loving life in Florida. The weather's great, but there's no sign of intelligent life down here. Missing New England and looking forward to visiting soon."

### 1984

**Lori Hein (MBA)** writes, "After spending 20 years as a sales, marketing, and organizational development exec for a New England health industry firm, I'm enjoying a second career as an author (*Ribbons of Highway: A Mother-Child Journey Across America*) and freelance writer and copywriter. I do some of my best writing while running and have a masochistic addiction to marathoning. The 2009 Boston [race] will be my 10th marathon. My son, Adam, is a Northeastern University sophomore majoring in music industry, and my daughter, Dana, is a high school junior who has Suffolk high on her list of potential colleges. We've already taken the campus tour!"

**Mary Jane (O'Sullivan) St. Jean (MBA)** of Danville, CA, writes, "I have lived in California since 1989 and currently [am] a realtor in East Bay area near San Francisco. I specialize in luxury homes and relocation. My husband, Garry, a retired NBA head coach and general manager, and I have two children both who are attending school on the East Coast. I get back to Boston quite often and cherish my Suffolk memories."

### 1996

**Judi Scalley (BSBA '93, MS)** writes, "I worked full-time, went to school part-time and graduated from Suffolk in 1993 with a master's in corporate training, as well as a bachelor's in CIS. My family and I live in Twin Mountain, NH, five miles from Bretton Woods Ski Resort. We love it up here. My husband and I own and operate DS Contractors, Inc., a general contracting business in Massachusetts and New Hampshire."

In addition to instructing communication courses at Suffolk, **Annunziata (Sodano) Varela (BA '94, MA)**—who goes by "Nancy"—has accepted an adjunct faculty position at Wentworth Institute of Technology in the humanities department. As a current stay-at-home mom, she manages to teach one day a week.

### 1997

**Eric Kinsherf (MBA)**, a certified financial planner, has started his own public accounting firm. Eric has extensive experience in municipal auditing and consulting and is looking forward to meeting new clients on the South Shore and Cape Cod.

### 2002

**Caroline Foote (MA)** has joined Winston Flowers in Boston as their retail visual manager. She is responsible for the design of the interiors at their seven locations.

### 2003

**Kristin (Pagliuca) Britton (MHA)** got married on September 1, 2007. In February, Kristin became the public policy strategist for the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council.

**Anna-Mary Cullen (MBA, JDB)** was recently engaged to Jerry M. Geist, formerly of St. Louis, MO, and a graduate of the electrical engineering program at Northeastern University in Boston. The couple is planning a winter wedding.

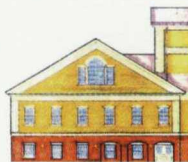
**Gus Martinson (MS)** currently works in the Fall River School District as their executive director of human resources. He writes, "More importantly, I have the opportunity to work within the school community celebrating the successes and the achievements of some of the most dedicated individuals in the state, through a biweekly cable program called 'Believe...and We Succeed.' Teachers, administrators, custodians, clerical staff, para professionals, and others too numerous to mention are interviewed and recognized for what they bring to the community in both their job function and also their devotion to the children of Fall River. In addition to taking part in the celebration of some of the employees of the Fall River Public Schools, I also have the honor of working with some of the students within the school district through one of their volunteer programs called SMILES. I owe much of my success in Fall River to Suffolk University's HR program."

### 2004

**Erin McNeill Rulli (MBA)** writes, "I was recently promoted (July 2008) from financial analyst to senior financial analyst at Goodwin Procter LLP. I received my BA in cultural anthropology and international relations from UMass Amherst in 1999 and worked for several years before going back to school to get my MBA with a concentration in finance. As a career changer, I'm pleased with my recent advance and look forward to a long, successful career in finance with my Suffolk MBA."

### 2005

**Kathleen Vanderlaan (MA)** has left New Hampshire for Marblehead and has started her own interior design firm, VL Designs. In addition, she is teaching at NESADSU as an adjunct instructor and serving on the board of Girls Inc. in Lynn. Girls Inc., whose motto is "Strong, Smart & Bold," is a national organization that offers after-school programs for girls of elementary through high school age, programs designed to raise self-esteem, help with career-planning, and a safe haven in the community. Kathi has done interior design work for the project.



### 2006

**Michael Gilleberto (MPA)** is living in Worcester with his wife, Jennifer. Michael has worked for the city of Worcester since 2005 as the city's director of operations.

**Anh Nguyen (MA)**, who was working at Nelson in Boston, has returned to Vietnam and opened her own design firm, DA&A Architects, in Hanoi. DA&A specializes in interior design, architecture, planning, and lighting design.

### 2007

**Heston Chipman (MBA)** is currently working at Netezza in the office of the chief technology officer as director of advanced projects. He writes, "I am married to a wonderful wife and have five children (all girls...no, I am not kidding) ranging in age from 9.5 years to 2 years. I am coaching the U10 Girls Division II traveling soccer team in Shrewsbury, MA, and still finding time to play early morning hockey two times a week. Life is good."

**Jessica (Ahnert) Davis (MA)** has relocated from New York to California. She is still with Wilson Associates, an interior design firm with additional offices in Dallas, Singapore, Shanghai, and South Africa. She specializes in the design of hotels and resorts, along with some residential work.

**Tryan McMickens (MED)** was named to the Research Advisory Board at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

**Kristine Mortensen (MA)** has left Benson Interiors in Boston for BBG-BBGM Architects in New York City. BBG-BBGM is an architectural and interior design firm with offices around the world.

**Jennifer Pompa (MA)** has left Kling Stubbins for a position with Sasaki in Watertown.

### 2008

**Sarah (Peters) Adams (MA)** has moved to Chicago and taken a job as an interior designer with Wright Heerema Architects, a firm specializing in corporate, educational, and recreational facilities.

**Victor Carlevalle (EMBA)** sold his first franchise, White Orchid Florist and Gourmet Deli, on April 1. Located in Whitman, MA, the company offers a full service florist along with gourmet baskets made of imported Italian items and a deli.

**Jennifer (Rowland) Clapp (MA)** is employed by Hacin + Associates, an architecture and interior design firm located in Boston's South End. Jennifer specializes in residential, commercial, retail, and reuse and preservation projects.

**Carson Converse (MA)** has left Boston for New York and is working for Igloo Design Group, focusing on hospitality and residential design. Igloo has designed restaurants, spas, and cruise ships in Tokyo, Toronto, Chicago, Shanghai, New York, Dubai, and Moscow.

**Nicole Dagle (MA)** has joined the team of NESADSU alums now employed at Bergmeyer in Boston.





## Class Notes

**Anne Rubin (MA)** works at Elm Bank Studio in Natick, a residential architecture and interior design firm.

**Caitlin Sweeney (MA)** and **Alison Smith (MA)** are now working at ADD Inc. in Cambridge, joining another team that includes several NESADSU alums.

### LAW

#### 1980

**Lynn Cromar (JD)** writes, "It's been awhile so I thought I'd let my classmates know I am still living in Dallas; I work for Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas part-time. My son recently graduated from college and is working in the Phoenix area with Sandor Development Company. My daughter is a junior at NYU. My husband, Eric, and I are enjoying life without kids at home and traveling quite a bit. Life is good!"

#### 1982

**Ed Wallack (JD)** and **Margo Haist Wallack (JD '81)** took a Mediterranean cruise over the summer, the highlight of which was a visit to the pyramids in Cairo. Ed is president of Sapers & Wallack, Inc., a regional executive and employee benefits and wealth advisory firm headquartered in Newton. Margo is a literacy specialist in the Newton Public Schools. Their son, Zach, is a senior at Syracuse and their daughter, Courtney, is a sophomore at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Ed and Margo extend an open invitation to their friends to join them at their ski condo at Okemo.



#### 1984

Two of **William Bagley's (JD)** poems were published this summer. "For Winslow" appeared in *America* magazine, and "The Lines of Old Barns" was posted on Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion website.

**Edward Mitnick (JD)** writes that he often travels from his home in western Massachusetts to destinations all over the country. As the founder and executive director of the consulting firm Just Training Solutions, LLC, Ed provides employment training and investigation services to businesses, municipalities, and employers throughout the U.S. He also serves as "of counsel" to the law firm Brodeur-McGan, PC in Springfield, specializing in the areas of employment litigation and labor relations. In addition, Ed works as a training consultant with the law firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in Philadelphia, PA. Previously, Ed served as a hearing officer for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and as city solicitor for the city of Holyoke. Ed's daughter, Nora, is presently a sophomore at Roger Williams University, and his son, Ian, is graduating from Belchertown High School this spring.

#### 1987

**Sally Michael-Pomerantz (JD)** was recently named a partner at Dionne & Gass LLP, a Boston law firm specializing in real estate, finance, and business law. Sally lives in Sharon with her husband, Eric, and daughters Elana (age 16) and Shira (age 13).

#### 1988

**Duncan MacKay (JD)** was recently appointed deputy general counsel of Northeast Utilities, which operates New England's largest utility system, serving more than 2 million electric and natural gas customers in Connecticut, western Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Duncan and his wife, **Julie (Grey) MacKay (JD)**, live in Simsbury, CT, with their three children (ages 6 to 16).

**Laurie Raphaelson (JD)** is still involved in a family practice of law with her two brothers and her father, a retired Massachusetts District Court justice. She practices primarily in the area of family law and acts as guardian ad litem in the probate and juvenile courts, as well as guardian for a number of mentally ill and elderly wards.

#### 1990

**Doug Lotane (JD)** writes, "After recently establishing the Southern Maine Law Collaborative, a firm dedicated to mediation and collaborative law in the areas of family law, business, and insurance, I have moved our principal office from Portland to Biddeford, Maine (we still have a satellite office in Portland). The Collaborative Law movement has (finally) come to Maine with an informational meeting sponsored by Kids First (of Portland) one year ago and an initial training for practitioners last spring. Also, I have been actively mediating since 2001, serving on all state court mediation rosters as well as the family mediation roster for Youth Alternatives Ingraham in Portland."

#### 1991

**Matt Conway (JD)** lives in West Hartford, CT, with his wife and three children. He started his own firm six years ago, Conway & Stoughton, and it has now grown to seven attorneys. He is board-certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy as a civil trial attorney. The main focus of the firm is civil defense litigation.

#### 1992

**Elizabeth DiRusso (JD)** writes, "I have been living in Connecticut, now in New Canaan, for about nine years. My husband, Mark Grenauer, and I have one amazing little redhead named Madison who started kindergarten this year and who is well on her way to out-negotiating her litigator-mother. I have been in-house at Omnicom Group Inc., one of the largest advertising and marketing services holding companies, for four and a half years, during most of which I have been engulfed in managing the defense of a securities class-action litigation. We were successful, thanks to Latham &

Watkins, in getting the court to grant summary judgment and dismiss the case on loss causation grounds. It is now on appeal before the Second Circuit, which gives me more time to go back to managing the myriad disputes our various companies encounter. I miss being in court, but this has been an incredible opportunity with a company that has a global presence."

#### 1993

**Lisa A. Modecker (JD)** was "elected" mayor of Roslindale, MA. The honorary title is part of a drive to help fund an annual local parade. "For the past 10 years I have operated a small law practice in Roslindale," Lisa writes. "And for the past four years I have been the president of the Roslindale Board of Trade, which serves the small businesses in and around Roslindale. My husband, Bryan Glascock, and I have three children, ages 14, 10, and 8."



#### 1996

In December 2007, **Michelle L. Dineen Jerrett (JD)** was appointed as an assistant United States attorney in the criminal division for the Springfield branch office of the district of Massachusetts.

#### 1997

**Joyce Anagnos (JD)** writes, "Yes! There is life after Suffolk and beyond Boston! After 18 years in Boston, I returned to my hometown of Toledo, OH, in 2004. Although there are many differences to the practice of law in Ohio from Massachusetts, Suffolk prepared me well. I've been able to transition from the public sector to the private sector in Boston, and then from the private sector to the public sector in Toledo. I credit many alumni friends who helped with these transitions. I encourage all alumni to join the Suffolk online networks and reach out to the thousands of enthusiastic alumni ready to help. The Suffolk Law Alumni Board is also ready to help you, and as a member I welcome all alumni contact!"

#### 1998

**Raquel Ortiz (JD)** has recently been promoted to associate director of Boston University's Pappas Law Library. In this new role, Raquel has responsibility for managing the research services provided by the library, including reference, instruction, educational technology, access, circulation, and reserves.

#### 2000

**Kerry (O'Shea) Gorgone (JD)** and **Dan Gorgone (MA '03)** welcomed their second son Max. Big brother Jack rounded out the welcoming committee.





**Danielle Herritt (JD)** and her husband, Scott, have reopened the historic Marliave, steps away from Suffolk Law School on the corner of Province and Bromfield. True to its speakeasy days (several times it was raided for the manufacture and sale of alcohol), the bar serves Prohibition-style cocktails and the classic food that it has been known for since 1875.

## 2001

**Ingrid Larson-Alexander (JD)** writes, "I am solidly into my second year of my solo elder law practice, and going strong. I am deeply involved in many community activities, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans for Peace, Homelessness Task Force, to name a few, making the Olympic Peninsula a better place to live, which is pretty fabulous to begin with. Presently I'm working on my first appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals of Veterans Claims, and handling lots of estate planning. Oh, and raising a toddler—Ben is now 3, so Nathan and I are excited to see which new way he will assert his toddlerdom independence. Heading back to New England the end of the summer for a visit with my 2008 Suffolk Law grad brother—way to go Tim! Don't worry about the Bar!"

**Richard P. Brederson (JD)** married Michelle C. VanNieuwenhuize, MD, on August 17 at Oceancliff Resort in Newport, RI. They honeymooned in Greece and make their home in Providence. Michelle completed her residency in internal medicine at UConn and is a primary care physician in Lincoln, RI. Rick has a plaintiff personal injury practice in Providence.



## 2002

**Emily Laube (JD)** writes, "I am currently working for the Ohio attorney general as a special prosecutor, specializing in child rape and child homicide cases. As a special prosecutor, I travel all over the state of Ohio and try high-level felony cases, including capital murder cases. I was recently involved with the successful prosecution of the case State of Ohio v. Jay Biggs. He was convicted of rape and murder of a child under 13 years of age. He received a sentence of life in prison without parole. I also prosecute RICO and other high-level felony cases."

## 2003

**Katerina ("Katia") Callahan (JD)** and **Cristiano Colitti (JD)** are planning a March 2009 wedding, followed by a honeymoon in South Brazil, Argentina, and Peru.

**Lucy K. Snyder (JD)** writes, "I live in Michigan now and am the finance lead for AACC, a publicly traded company. I use my law degree every day in financial compliance issues."



I miss my old hometown of Boston and the great lobster and seafood!"

## 2004

**Brian Cano (JD)** writes, "In July, my wife, Maricarmen Cano, and I had our first child: a baby boy, Andres Edilberto Cano."

## Share Your News

Class notes are a great way to let your fellow alumni know what is happening in your post-college life, from career changes to family news. And now, with Suffolk Alumni Magazine's expanded class notes section, connecting (or reconnecting) with your classmates is simpler than ever.

**SAM** prefers class notes in your own words.

Here's a sample:

"Hi, SAM: My name is John Doe (BSBA in Finance, 2002), and I've been very busy since graduation. I'm now working at Smith & Brown Financial Services in Providence, RI, where I have relocated with my family. My wife Sarah and I recently adopted our first child, Scarlet Rose, a beautiful toddler from South Africa. We just returned from a family vacation in Disneyland. The West coast was nice, but we'd never leave our New England roots!"

SAM class notes can run from a line to a paragraph. Longer submissions may be edited for space and content. We welcome photographs. Electronic submissions should be high resolution (300 dpi minimum).

Via Web:

[www.suffolk.edu/alumni](http://www.suffolk.edu/alumni)

Via E-mail:

[classnotes@suffolk.edu](mailto:classnotes@suffolk.edu)

Via Post:

Attn: Class Notes  
Suffolk Alumni Magazine  
8 Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

Congratulations to Kristin Britton '03

whose name was chosen in a random drawing from the scores of alumni who submitted their class notes for the Winter 2009 issue of SAM.

Kristin and her guest attended Holiday Pops, an annual Alumni Association tradition at Boston Symphony Hall.

To enter the drawing for the Spring 2009 issue of SAM, submit your news via web or e-mail. From class notes submitted by February 6, 2009, one name will be selected randomly. The winner will receive an Amazon gift card.

## 2006

**Jeremy Auslander (JD)** is "pleased to announce that I am the president and co-founder of Roxbury Jewelry, a diamond and jewelry concierge service."

**Jeff Kuntz (JD)** and his wife, Kristine, welcomed a son, Jackson Jeffrey Kuntz, into the world on August 30 in Boca Raton, FL. He weighed 7 lbs., 4 oz.

## 2007

**James Baron (JD)** writes, "I have started my own law practice, concentrating in education law. I have worked on such matters as special education, discipline, and various student/school disputes. I have passed the bar in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Florida."

**Kelly Bridget Castriotta (JD)** has joined Kaufman, Borgeest & Ryan as an associate in its NYC office. She also recently earned a master of arts in philosophy from Boston College.

**Leon Goodwin (JD)** writes, "On December 17, 2007, I took the position of assistant city attorney for the city of Keene, NH. On October 4, I married Erin M. Pinney. In attendance at the wedding was **Marena Ramirez (JD)**."

**Hayden Lee (JD)** finished his one-year Virginia trial court clerkship and recently joined the law firm of Feil, Pettit, and Williams, PLC, in Charlottesville, VA, where he is an associate in the litigation department.

**Lauren McDowell (JD)** took the Hawaii State Bar Exam in July and moved to the island of Kauai at the end of September to begin her new job as a judicial law clerk for the chief judge of the 5th Circuit Court of Kauai.

**David D. McGowan (JD)** writes, "I am now serving as an assistant district attorney for the Suffolk County district attorney's office and have recently been named an 'Up and Coming Lawyer' by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly after handling two first-degree murder appeals before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court—one of the cases involved a quadruple homicide in Charlestown in 1995. The SJC recently affirmed the convictions. Hope all is well and thanks for keeping tabs on folks; it is great to hear what classmates have been up to."

**Brian Gillespie (JD)** writes, "I am an associate in the banking/corporate group with Allen & Overy LLP, working between Dubai and Riyadh."

## 2008

**Christine Martin (JD)** is currently an associate at Aloise & Wilcox, PC, in Worcester, MA, doing criminal defense and litigation.





## Grazie, mamma e papà

**W**HILE GOING through the sad and difficult process of settling the estate of my dead parents, it struck me what an incredible life they had lived and how fortunate I am to have grown up Italian-American.

I didn't speak English until I was 6 years old because my parents, who immigrated here in 1956, only gradually learned to speak the language as they devoted so many hours every day to working in local factories to build their new life. They had been farmers in a small town called Miranda in the Abruzzi section of Italy. My grandfather had come to the U.S.A. ahead of time—post-World War II—to pave the way for his children.

Five Italian families, several from Miranda, settled on our street in Hanson, Massachusetts. We created our own Little Italy and practiced much of the same lifestyle that our family had in Italy. We all had elaborate gardens, raised livestock, and made wine. We grew tomatoes and bottled them in late August so we had a yearlong supply of homemade sauce for Sunday feasts and parties in the neighborhood.

We looked after one another, and we shared in the great food and great pastimes of the old country. My father, Nicola, worked in very tough conditions: first at a nursery, where he'd come home with numerous scratches up his arms and legs from thorns; then at a foundry, where he'd come home smelling like rust and iron; and fi-

nally at a shoe factory, where the summers were brutally hot with barely any air circulating in the old three-story wooden structure.

My brother, Fred, and I had summer jobs at the factory, so we both got a glimpse into our father's life that instilled in us the desire to hold professional jobs. Fred was a teacher for 35 years before retiring last year, and I went right into the newspaper business with the *Brockton Enterprise*, the *Patriot Ledger* and the *Boston Globe*.

Our mother, Adelina, a seamstress, sewed women's clothes on a piece-work basis, laboring 10 hours a day on the third floor of another sweatshop factory. She battled heart disease and diabetes much of her adult life, but she kept working while taking care of the household.

For years, we lived modestly in a small apartment above my grandfather's home, but as children we never went without good clothes, enough food, and everything we needed for school. Every dime was saved for the day when my parents could afford to buy their own house, which they finally did proudly in 1964.

From then on, my parents labored days and sometimes nights and weekends to save money to send my brother and me to college. It didn't strike me until much later in my life how hard these Italian immigrant families worked to make a better life in this country for their children.

My brother and I learned a lot from our upbringing. We were ingrained with a sense of community, of taking care of your neighbors and friends and working hard to enjoy the things that we now take for granted. We learned about hard work and perseverance and that our children come first, above all else.

My brother and I got the best of both worlds; a piece of Italy and the ways of the old country have always stayed with us. The life lessons we learned while watching our parents struggle to make it in a world where their Italian accent and broken English were considered funny, and where they were often perceived as different, has made us stronger.

Both times, five years apart, when my parents took their final breath, I kissed them on the cheek and whispered, "Thank you for loving me so much, and thank you for what you taught me."

*con affetto, Niccolò*





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